

Hafa Adai!

Finance staff arrested for allegedly embezzling \$2,500.

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'Dim mood in Congress deters passage of CW legislation' » PAGE 7

Saipan Tribune

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BSI bares plans for Phase 2 of integrated casino project

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

No site has been identified yet for the second phase of Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s massive integrated resort project in the CNMI—even as

their Phase 1 in Garapan has yet to be built—but some plans are already in the works and locations are being eyed.

According to Imperial Pacific chief services officer Tao Xing, they are actively looking at "different options" in terms of public lands.

» **Says if hotel or resort impacted by land acquisition, they will hire affected employees**

"Most likely it will be a combination of public lands and private lands," he said.

The site could be anywhere, Tao said, but they have a number of options that they are evaluating. If they

See BSI on Page 2

This artist's sketch shows the grandiose lobby of the Grand Mariana Casino & Hotel Resort, Phase 1 of Best Sunshine International Ltd.'s \$7.1 billion project in the CNMI, featuring a golden dragon snaking its way into the impressive staircase.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Champi makes closest approach today

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Condition I is expected to be hoisted on several islands of the Commonwealth today as Tropical Storm Champi makes its closest approach to the CNMI. It is projected to become a typhoon today.

"Once we get into Condition I we hope the community stays put wherever they're at, whether they're at home or at the shelter or at a hotel," said special assistant for Homeland Security

See CHAMPI on Page 4

» **Expected to intensify to a typhoon**

DFS backs bidding out Tinian, Rota duty-free concessions

DFS Saipan supports breaking up the CNMI master concession into three separate master concessions for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, as proposed in a Senate bill that is now awaiting action in the House of Representatives.

In a statement yesterday, DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce said that what DFS wants is to have a

master concession for Saipan only.

"The law presently does not allow for a Saipan-only master concession, but Senate Bill 19-48 would divide up the CNMI master concession into three master concessions, one each for Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. We support that legislation with amendments. If it passes, it will create a Saipan-only master concession," she said.

Aldan-Pierce was commenting on a recent Commonwealth Ports Authority board resolution to not negotiate another master concession with DFS. On Sept. 28, the CPA board voted to not enter into another Commonwealth-wide duty-free master concession with DFS Saipan, although such negotiations received overwhelming

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INSIDE



NATION

Hillary Clinton's polished performance in her first debate is a warning to her rivals.

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WORLD

Iranian troops are being deployed in Syria, escalating Tehran's involvement.

» PAGE 18



LIFE & STYLE

Lamar Odom didn't last long at the intersection of championship and celebrity.

» PAGE 21



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Local



Best Sunshine International Ltd.'s upcoming Grand Mariana Casino & Hotel Resort will be an illuminated and sparkling icon in Garapan at night.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BSI

From Page 1

do acquire a location where an existing facility is already built, he assured that they will hire the employees of that facility.

"Our goal is really to increase employment, so we have the commitment to hire everyone if there is any hotel impacted in the process," Tao said.

"Our commitment is that we want to make sure that if there is any hotel or resort that will be impacted in the process of land acquisition, our commitment is to hire all the employees, make sure they have continuity in terms of employment," he added.

However, BSI officials assured they would be constructing new buildings.

"The plan is going to be all new construction for Phase 2," chief operating officer Matt Harkness said.

Both officials declined to answer when asked if Best Sunshine will be bidding for the property of Mariana Resort and Spa in Marpi once a request for proposal is issued. They also

declined to say if they already acquired leases for some properties for Phase 2.

In September 2014, the Department of Public Lands offered Best Sunshine over 20 hectares of public lands south of Mariana Resort.

Mariana Resort, whose lease will expire in April 2018, sought a 25-year extension but received a letter from DPL which said that "at the end of the lease term the leased premises revert to DPL and all improvements become the property of DPL."

DPL said it will be conducting a "global solicitation" for proposals for the public land upon expiration of existing leases and that this "will be the rule for any expiring leases with our government."

Best Sunshine said Phase 2 of their project will be "at least 10 times bigger" than Phase 1 and will feature thousands of rooms in about 20 hotels, multiple casinos, the world's largest water park, and a kilometer-long shopping mall.

"Phase 1 is incredibly exciting, Phase 2 is even more so," Harkness said. "It's not just going to be hotel rooms. It's going

to be a very spectacular integrated resort that will draw people from all over the world."

Harkness said this will open up thousands of jobs and will have a huge impact on the islands' business and tourism.

He said that over \$100 million in tax revenues would benefit the island.

Tao also cited the millions-worth community chest fund that will be released once they break ground for Phase 2.

"At the groundbreaking of Phase 2, within 60 days, we're obligated as part of the license agreement to release a community chest fund of \$20 million," he said. "I think, as a community, we should all be looking forward to that because that's a large fund to be released and will benefit the community."

When asked for a timeline on when they plan to start Phase 2, Tao said, "As soon as possible."

"As soon as we have the land, we will start," he added.

No definite length of time was given as to the opening of Phase 2 once construction starts.

"A project that large will be opening in phases," Harkness

See BSI on Page 4

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**RESTAURANT
TROPICANA**

Finance staff arrested for allegedly embezzling \$2,500

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A Department of Finance employee was arrested yesterday morning after an Office of the Public Auditor's investigation showed she allegedly embezzled \$2,500 that was paid by a client of the Members Home Loan.

Ana Castro Cepeda, 46, was taken to Superior Court yesterday afternoon on five counts of theft or embezzlement, five counts of theft by unlawful taking or disposition, five counts of theft by deception, and five counts of theft by failure to

make required disposition of funds received.

The initial bail was \$25,000 cash, but Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo granted the request of assistant public defender Matthew Meyer to reduce bail and release Cepeda to a third-party custodian, among other conditions.

Assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley, as counsel for the government, did not object.

Govendo allowed Cepeda to post \$500 cash and \$4,500 in unsecured bond. The judge found Cepeda's husband, retired Department of Public

Safety police officer Edward Cepeda, as a suitable third-party custodian.

Arraignment will be on Oct. 26.

In response to Govendo's concern that Ana Cepeda posted on Facebook prior to her arrest that she is planning to relocate to Houston, Texas, Edward Cepeda said he would not allow her to leave without the court's permission.

Meyer pointed out that Ana Cepeda turned herself to the police upon being informed of the case.

OPA chief investigator Juan Mafnas Santos stated in his report that Ana Cepeda stole a to-

tal of \$2,500 in payments made by Members Home Loan client Fermin Sakisat from May 6 to Aug. 31, 2015.

Santos said the OPA's investigation started last Sept. 25 after Finance Secretary Larissa Larson and the NMI Retirement Fund comptroller turned over information about theft of funds involving an

MHL client's payment.

Santos said that Cepeda received the payments in the form of cash but she posted them as check.

At that time, Santos said,

the Fund comptroller discovered \$1,000 in payments for July and August 2015 that were missing.

Larson and the Finance acting manager/enforcement and regulatory branch manager also provided information that when called into Larson's office, Ana Cepeda admitted that she took the money and used it for her own personal use.

The OPA investigator said the Finance comptroller disclosed last Oct. 7 that he discovered that \$1,500 more was missing.

Santos said that Ana Cepeda prepared and received Sakisat's payments but the funds were not deposited with the Bank of Guam as reflected in the bank statements.

The OPA investigator said that Sakisat first made the \$500 cash payment on May 6, which was stamped received by Cepeda at Finance.

Santos said Sakisat made the second payment of \$500 cash on May 20, and third \$500 cash on July 13, another \$500 cash on Aug. 14, and finally another \$500 cash on Aug. 31.

Santos said he received information that Cepeda posted on Facebook that she will be relocating to Houston anytime soon.

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Divert EIS released; public comments sought

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The U.S. Air Force releases today a revised draft environmental impact statement for a divert airfield project in the CNMI inclusive of three options for an airfield on either Saipan, Tinian, or on both islands.

The main selling point of this new draft is the "hybrid" option that military officials say spreads reduced operations to both islands.

The revised EIS comes three years after a first draft was released in 2012. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rated that draft "insufficient" due to its minimal assessment of severe noise impacts to Saipan residents.

This time around the Air Force removed the following from their divert project: runway extension, permanent navigational aids, aircraft hangar, munitions storage facilities, arm/disarm pad, tent

lodging, and fighter aircraft operations.

The release comes a day after Air Force officials led by Brig. Gen. Andrew Toth—the local representative based in Guam for the divert project—concluded his trip to the CNMI to meet local officials.

A 45-day comment period begins today. The CNMI government, community, and other bodies have until Nov. 30 (Eastern Daylight Time) or Dec. 1 (Chamorro Standard Time) to submit formal comments.

After this period, the Secretary of the Air Force may announce a Record of Decision selecting any one of the three divert options. The Air Force says this time around they have "no preferred" alternative because they feel all alternatives meet their needs.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority—which owns land on both Tinian and Saipan airports—has a standing resolution that essentially blocks the siting of the divert airfield on

Saipan. CPA has pointed to Tinian instead.

Barry Toves, CPA board director and chairman of its subcommittee on airport facilities, says he is hopeful the Air Force heard their concerns.

"The Secretary of the Air Force will have to make a decision, which one of those options, it's up to them. But for us, we have the trump card. We will not approve any airport layout plan if it's going to adversely affect the economy of the Commonwealth. We have a fiduciary duty to protect the Commonwealth Ports Authority and that's the reason why we are here," Toves told reporters on Wednesday.

Toves was referring to an airport layout plan that would have to be approved by CPA and submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration for approval.

"I am hopeful that the Secretary will allow us to be heard and address our concerns because the Commonwealth is

just the most infant member of the United States of America. We are not even a state, we are not even 40 years old yet. We need for the United States to allow us to grow, allow us to self-govern...We are not saying we don't want them to come in. Of course, we are all U.S. citizens and we belong to the nation but our islands are very scarce. So coming in and establishing monuments for endangered species, coming in and establishing for national defense—our people keep getting pushed out into the ocean. We have to strike a balance."

"My concern there was we were going to have hardened armory at the airport," Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) told reporters yesterday. "And have fighter airplanes, and now there will be tankers on both Saipan and Tinian. That will lessen the impact, the footprint and the ground."

Economic questions

Questions on the potential

economic benefits of the military sharing aviation fuel with commercial aircraft has been raised, but it's unclear if there is any precedence for this right now, Air Force officials said this week.

Toves said they have to exercise their "fiduciary authority and responsibility" to CPA.

Toves spoke to reporters on Wednesday after meeting with Pacific Air Forces officials. The Air Force officials concluded their CNMI visit yesterday, after a courtesy visit to Gov. Eloy Inos. They also met with the Tinian mayor's office on Wednesday.

"If they want to exist with us, there has to be some kind of exchange," Toves said. "We need the funding for us to expand our airports, especially on Tinian. We don't have the funding right now to do the expansion. We rely heavily on airport improvement project grants, and our wishes" are dependent on the approval of the FAA, which prioritizes secu-

rity projects before infrastructure improvements that would cater to terminal buildings for direct flights to the island.

Citing the Air Force's proposal to build landing ramps and fuel storage facilities in their divert airfield plans, Toves said the CNMI could "tap" into those facilities, noting the need for a future fuel farm on Tinian if the island were to realize direct flights from China, for example.

"We can submit our wish list to FAA, but FAA...decides which comes first. Usually security issues come first. But developing infrastructure that would cater to the terminal buildings and things like that probably would fall in the second, third priority."

"My question is...will the supply and capability be available for commercial" plans, he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CHAMPI

From Page 1

and Emergency Management Marvin Seman.

The center of Champi is expected to pass through the Northern Marianas north of Anatahan this afternoon and the closest point of approach will be about 4pm.

HSEM is looking at 4am to raise Typhoon Condition I for Agrihan, Pagan and Alamagan, which means that destructive winds of 74 mph or higher is expected within 12 hours.

Saipan and Tinian will be placed on Tropical Storm Condition I, meaning winds of 39 mph or greater may be felt within 12 hours.

"Because we've also learned from the [past] storm, we started announcing it out to the community in terms of when do we get into those conditions in hopes to let the community know and prepare ahead of time," Seman said.

With Champi's track looking similar to Typhoon Soudelor, there is still a possibility that it will change and move south, closer to Anatahan and Saipan.

"Anything is possible. Mother Nature decides to take the track where it wants to go, so right now the main focus should be preparing and making sure that everybody is safe," Seman said.

Deputy special assistant Gerald Deleon Guerrero said that they will continue to monitor Champi and that they are ready.

"We'll be up all night," Deleon Guerrero said. "If anything should go wrong, we are ready."

"Let's just hope and pray that it stays in its course and continue to go north," he added.

As of press time, Tropical Storm Champi was moving toward the west-northwest at 17 miles per hour. It is expected to continue west-northwest the next couple days with a gradual slowdown in forward speed.

Champi's maximum sustained winds was at 60 mph yesterday evening with tropical storm force winds extending outward up to 150 miles south of the center and up to 115 miles north of the center.

As of the 8pm bulletin, Gov. Eloy S. Inos maintained Typhoon Condition II for the islands of Agrihan, Pagan, and Alamagan while Tropical Storm Condition II was maintained for the islands of Saipan and Tinian. A tropical storm warning remained in effect for Rota.

As early as 12pm yesterday, the Aging Center and the Kagman Community Center were opened for those who need special medical equipment and assistance. The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority is providing transportation to these shelters.

Schools that also serve as temporary shelters such as Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Koblerville Elementary School, Dandan Middle School, and Tanapag Middle School were also opened, with Public School System buses providing transportation.

percent the number of rooms for Phase 1 of their project.

"The ownership has very wisely determined that the increase in hotel rooms is beneficial to the islands and the business that Best Sunshine has," Harkness said.

Northern Islands prepared

According to Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan, residents of Alamagan, Pagan and Agrihan were informed, and are prepared for Tropical Storm Champi.

"The information has been provided by the use of single band radio. We might catch them in the morning again," Aldan said.

He said that people in the Northern Islands, which are about 20, will be using the Japanese bunkers as shelters.

They will try to communicate with these people again this morning but the next one might be on Monday. Aldan said they have enough supplies up there.

"I think they are more prepared than we are. I already notified them a couple of days prior to the expectation of this storm to hit us in the CNMI," Aldan said.

Schools, government, courts closed

Classes for public schools on Saipan and Tinian, which was earlier placed under Tropical Storm Condition II, are cancelled today as announced by Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan.

Rota, which was maintained under tropical storm warning, will still have classes.

"Because of this qualification, only Saipan and Tinian public schools and Head Start will close tomorrow. Rota will remain open," Sablan said.

Mt. Carmel School and Sister Remedios Early Childhood

Development Center also announced class suspensions effective today.

Inos announced on social media that work for government employees are suspended today for all non-critical personnel.

"Critical government services will still be in operation, however. Please take extra precaution as we are expecting damaging winds and heavy rain as Tropical Storm Champi continues its approach to our region," Inos said.

The District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands is also closed due to the approach of Tropical Storm Champi.

Port Heavy Weather Condition

As of 8pm yesterday, the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port Guam established port heavy weather condition YANKEE for CNMI ports.

"Dead" ships or vessels/barges/drydocks unable to put to sea must make a prompt written application to the COTP. All commercial vessels greater than or equal to 200 gross tons must depart and all inbound vessels are prohibited from entering.

"Upon the setting of PHWC ZULU, which is estimated to be set at 6am on Oct. 16, 2015, the port and marinas will remain closed to incoming traffic and all cargo and bunker operations will be suspended," it said.

It added that any vessel or facility operator desiring a Captain of the Port waiver from the above restrictions must submit a written request.

percent the number of rooms for Phase 1 of their project.

"The ownership has very wisely determined that the increase in hotel rooms is beneficial to the islands and the business that Best Sunshine has," Harkness said.

support at a public hearing.

Aldan-Pierce stated: "It appears that the CPA directors, anticipating the bill's passage, denied the request to negotiate a CNMI-wide master concession with us and we are fine with that."

DFS Saipan has operated the duty-free store at the Saipan International Airport for almost 40 years.

In 1985, Public Law 4-60 established a master concession that provided exclusive duty-free privileges for all ports at all islands in the Commonwealth. DFS was granted the first 20-year master concession in November of 1985. In 1997, a second master concession was granted to DFS for an additional 10 years. It will end next month.

The law permits a concession to be renewed with an incumbent concessionaire based on negotiated terms if CPA determines after a public hearing that it is in the best interests of the Commonwealth to negotiate the renewal.

In 2014, DFS requested that CPA negotiate a renewed master concession. A public hearing was held on Oct. 16, 2014. Eighteen persons testified, all in support of negotiating with DFS. Written testimony was received from 435 persons, all but one in support of negotiation with DFS. One vendor submitted a letter of interest in bidding, but did not attend the hearing.

At its recent September meeting, the CPA board voted to not negotiate a new Commonwealth-wide master concession with DFS. Citing the pending Senate Bill 19-48 that would dissolve a Commonwealth-wide master concession and create three island master concessions, one each on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, the CPA board resolved to issue requests for proposals for each island's mas-

ter concession.

The introduction of Senate Bill 19-48 by Senate President Victor Hocog on June 18, 2015, was a "game changer," according to Aldan-Pierce, because it would create three island master concessions.

Under the current master concession, DFS has not opened a duty-free shop at either the Rota or Tinian airport due to low passenger traffic and low retail demand.

"We want to see Rota and Tinian benefit from having their own airport shops. If the casino wants to open a shop on Tinian, for example, that would certainly help Tinian's development," said Aldan-Pierce.

The legislation passed the Senate on July 23, 2015, and is now pending in the House of Representatives.

Aldan-Pierce said that DFS supports the Senate bill "with appropriate amendments."

"The bill does not harm us. We want to renew our concession at the Saipan airport only," she said. "DFS wants to keep its shop open at the Saipan airport. We want to protect the jobs of our employees at the airport. Some have worked there for 20 years."

Aldan-Pierce added: "We see a potential for great growth in tourism and a need to expand the airport. Historically, we have provided the funding for the construction and expansion of the Saipan International Airport. We want to do that again. We hope not only to keep our shop, but also to expand its size in a larger airport."

DFS paid over \$7.6 million to CPA in 2011, 2012, and 2013, according to testimony at the public hearing. It is one of the largest employers of resident workers in the Commonwealth.

Aldan-Pierce is also chairperson of the Marianas Visitors Authority, a public agency that works to increase tourism in the CNMI. (*Saipan Tribune*)

BSI

From Page 2

said.

Best Sunshine was recently approved by the CNMI Zoning Board to increase by about 50

percent the number of rooms for Phase 1 of their project.

"The ownership has very wisely determined that the increase in hotel rooms is beneficial to the islands and the business that Best Sunshine has," Harkness said.

Judge says Benavente lied during Roberto's trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has determined that former firefighter Richard Sullivan Benavente lied in his testimony at the jury trial of Raymond Roberto, who was accused but later acquitted of enticing minors to have sex in exchange for cash.

In a written order on Wednesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said all the evidence show that Benavente gave false testimony at the Roberto trial when he said that he used the phone number ending in -3443 to lie at the Roberto trial.

Benavente breached his plea agreement with the U.S. government, the judge said.

A federal grand jury indicted

Benavente in 2013 on several counts of sexual exploitation of a child. He cooperated with authorities and entered into a plea deal with the U.S. government.

In February 2014, Benavente pleaded guilty to a count of sex-

from mid-June to July 2013.

Manglona said the text messages are consistent with Roberto using that number and that Benavente's claim that the messages came from him makes no sense.

By lying at the Roberto trial, Benavente breached his plea agreement with the U.S. government, the judge said.

A federal grand jury indicted

Benavente in 2013 on several counts of sexual exploitation of a child. He cooperated with authorities and entered into a plea deal with the U.S. government.

Testifying for the defense, Benavente testified that, from mid-June to July of 2013, he in fact used the -3443 SIM card to contact the minors. He said he used the card after June 12 and continuing through July 19, the day of his arrest.

Roberto was later acquitted. Because of Benavente's testi-

ual exploitation of a child. He has yet to be sentenced.

In September that year, Roberto went to trial on charges of

coercing and enticing some of

the same minors that Benavente

had sexually exploited.

At the trial, the prosecution presented evidence that Roberto used a prepaid SIM card with a number ending in -3443 to contact the girls for sex.

Testifying for the defense, Benavente testified that, from mid-June to July of 2013, he in fact used the -3443 SIM card to contact the minors. He said he used the card after June 12 and continuing through July 19, the day of his arrest.

Because of Benavente's testi-

timony, the U.S. government asked the court to find him in breach of his plea agreement for allegedly lying about his use of the -3443 SIM card during the Roberto trial.

Benavente insisted that he told the truth.

The judge, however, disagreed. Manglona said the record of text messages as well as the weight of the other evidence show that Roberto used the -3443 number, not Benavente.

"Because the evidence makes it more likely than not that Benavente lied at the Roberto trial, the court will grant the government's motion to find Benavente in breach of his plea agreement," Manglona said.

The judge pointed out that the

text message records are consistent with Roberto using -3443 and that the text messages are inconsistent with Benavente using that number.

Manglona said Benavente's

claim that he used -3443 conflicts with other information he previously gave investigators. Other evidence outside the texts themselves shows that Roberto used -3443, she added.



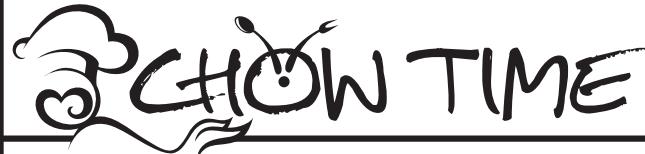
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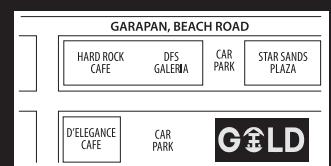
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Justices: Judge's interpretation of elements of sex assault in error

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has ruled that Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho's interpretation of the elements of sexual assault in the first degree was wrong.

The Supreme Court said Camacho clearly erred by dismissing the sexual assault in the first-degree charge based on the ages of the offender and victim.

The high court directed Camacho to reconsider his previous order that found no probable cause to file a charge of sexual assault in the first degree against George Norris Langu Jr.

The Supreme Court issued the decision Wednesday in

granting on the government's petition for a writ of mandamus. Chief Justice Alejandro C. Castro and associate justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos issued the opinion.

The justices noted that the potential for other cases to be dismissed on the same grounds is significant. Because Camacho indicated that he had seen similar cases in the past, the justices said there is a risk that the same error will recur if the law is not immediately clarified.

The Office of the Attorney General filed the petition for a writ of mandamus, asking the high court to step in to correct the mistake Camacho made in dismissing the first-degree sexual assault charge filed against the 18-year-old Langu.

Assistant attorney general Matthew C. Baisley asked the high court to instruct Camacho to reinstate the sexual assault charge. He also asked the high court to instruct the trial court that there is no legislative loophole in the first-degree sexual assault statute.

Langu is facing five charges, including a count of sexual assault in the first degree, for allegedly raping his 16-year-old neighbor on Saipan.

After the preliminary hearing, citing a loophole in the sex crime laws, Camacho found no probable cause to believe that sexual assault in the first degree was committed. The judge pointed out that recent legislative amendments to the sex crime laws precluded prosecutions where the alleged of-

fender is 18 years old and the victim is 16 years old.

In an *amicus* brief, Camacho expressed his concern about the gap in the sexual offense law but that he believes the proper approach would be to handle this issue legislatively.

Camacho said if both sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor statutes apply in a particular case, the Commonwealth potentially runs the risk of multiplicitous charges and confusion of the jury.

In granting the government's petition for mandamus, the justices said the plain language of the sexual assault in the first-degree statute indicates that the Legislature did not intend to legalize nonconsensual sex between a 16-year-old victim and an 18-year-old offender.

The justices said a person violates the statute if he or she engages in nonconsensual sexual penetration with another, regardless of the age of the victim or offender.

"Nothing in the statute indicates an offender cannot be charged for sexual assault in the first degree if the victim is a minor," the justices pointed out.

As to other means of redress, the justices said re-filing the charge will likely prove futile because the finding of no probable cause was premised on an erroneous interpretation of law.

The justices said nothing in

the record indicates that Camacho found the government's evidence unconvincing.

Although there is a pending motion to reconsider, the justices said Camacho's brief clearly shows that he will not reconsider and change his interpretation of the law.

"Consequently, there are no available avenues for relief, and the Commonwealth will suffer prejudice because it will be unable to effectively prosecute a subset of sexual assault in the first degree cases until this issue is resolved," they said.

Probable cause found to charge man who locked two sons inside vehicle

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio found probable cause yesterday to warrant the filing of charges against Frank Ichiro Sablan, who allegedly left his two sons inside a car without food, water, and air-conditioning for several hours so he could play poker.

At the preliminary hearing, Kim-Tenorio found probable cause to charge the 32-year-old Sablan with two counts of child neglect and two counts of disturbing the peace. Sablan was directed to answer the charges. Arraignment is on Monday at 9am.

Kim-Tenorio, however, did not find probable cause to charge Sablan for failing to pick up his other son from school and dismissed the two charges.

At the hearing, assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda called to the witness stand police detective Myron Laniyo, who told the court

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- (B) is unemployed or underemployed and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment.

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1. Is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code), and who has experienced a loss of employment as a direct result of relocation to accommodate a permanent change in duty station of such member; or
2. Is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty and who meets the criteria described in Displaced Homemaker Definition (B).

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SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2015 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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*/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY*

*/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S*

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COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY*

*/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S*

'Dim mood in Congress deters passage of CW legislation'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is convinced the White House will positively respond to Gov. Eloy S. Inos' request for consultations with President Barack Obama on the expiring foreign worker program, but concedes that eventual legislation to keep these much needed third country national workers in the CNMI is unclear right now as the U.S. House of Representatives undergoes a messy and contentious fight for new leadership.

"We need a voice and we need workers," Sablan told reporters after meeting with Inos, Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres, and other administration official yesterday. "We need third country national workers. ...I would [like] to see a different program instead of this cap [on workers]," noting that this program would be something similar to the H-visa class.

"It would have been nice if there had been no opposition in the past to my legislation, so that we would have by now a certain number of third country nationals who were at one-time" contract workers, to have "at least a Northern Marianas status where they don't have to do this annual applications and have to get advance parole to visit their family and come back," Sablan.

"But of course that is the past; we are talking about the present," Sablan said. "I would like to see and to help the governor where I can and his special representative whoever may that be." Sablan was echoing plans the administration has discussed heading into consultations with the White House, once this is given the green light.

Inos sent last week a letter to Obama requesting direct consultation on issues like the expiring contract worker program, which expiration in 2019 would potentially zero out the 14,000 non-U.S. citizen workers who live and work in the CNMI and contribute to its economy.

Saipan Tribune has gathered that administration officials have been discussing strategies, even before the letter to Obama was sent, on working toward a work visa that would not be transitory and would be a separate visa class of sorts for the Commonwealth. Consultation with the White House, if approved, and eventual legislation would be a matter of case building, compiling data, and illuminating the needs of the Commonwealth.

"We are going to have to wait to see what [Inos has] negotiated," Sablan said when asked about what kind of legislation could be passed.

"But as you know," he added, "the mood in Congress right now is, unfortunately, very dim, as you can see just from the competition or lack of competition for the job of [House] speaker." He called this "unfortunate."

Sablan was referring to House Speaker John Boehner's announced resignation and the contentious battle among Republicans in the House as to who will be the next speaker.

"Time is being wasted," Sablan said, noting that a group in the House wants candidates for speaker to make promises that they know are impossible to keep.

"They want to put everything through regular order," Sablan said, referring to boisterous members of the House like the "Freedom Caucus."

"In Congress there are legislation put up under 'suspension of the rules' because if you do regular order all the time, you will never get anything done," he said. "Even legislation, for example, that has passed the House three or four times—some legislation has done that and goes to the Senate and never gets acted on. So if you are going to put regular order on those legislation, that means you are going to have to start again, conduct a hearing...go through time to debate on the floor—it just makes it more tedious and complicated.

"Some members want a debt reduction promise, ...to make drastic cuts so that there will be no increases for anything, there

See DIM on Next Page



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Joyner ready for Miss International pageant in Tokyo

At a time when calls to help increase Japanese arrivals to the CNMI are growing, 2015 Miss Marianas Jian Joyner will be representing the Commonwealth in Japan's largest international pageant with preparations starting tomorrow.

Jian joins 70 delegates from around the world in the 55th Annual Miss International Pageant in Tokyo, scheduled for Nov. 5 at the Tokyo Grand Prince Hotel New Takanawa.

"I am honored and excited to be representing our CNMI, help bring positive light to one of our largest and steadfast tourism markets, and continue to share the beauty and hospitality of our islands," said the 21 year-old beauty queen. "I have worked

very hard, been preparing for weeks now and I feel I am ready to represent our islands to the best of my ability."

Joyner just returned from Tokyo with the Marianas Visitors Authority to promote the islands at its largest travel expo, Japan Association of Travel Agents.

The International Cultural Association or ICA, the main orga-

nizer for the pageant, expects 2015 Miss International pageant contestants to serve as "Ambassadors of Peace and Beauty," demonstrating benevolence, friendship, beauty, intelligence, ability to take action, and, most importantly, a great international sensibility.

According to ICA, it has played an important role in advertising tourism in Japan by widening the circle of goodwill activities of each country's representative.

In addition, Miss International established the "Miss International Fund," which donates money to underprivileged children

around the world through UNICEF and other charity institutions.

The pageant will have four main areas of competition: national costume, swim wear, evening gown, and question-and-answer.

Joyner's national costume represents the beautiful sunsets of the Marianas, with spectacular golden rays as a headpiece and adornment, and a two-piece



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Miss Marianas 2015 Jian Joyner will be representing the Commonwealth at the 55th Annual Miss International Pageant in Tokyo.

red orange sparkling gown with sheer arm cuffs that extend in a Japanese kimono style.

"I chose to represent the famous beauty of our islands' sunsets interwoven with my Japanese heritage," said Joyner.

Joyner's national costume represents the beautiful sunsets of the Marianas, with spectacular golden rays as a headpiece and adornment, and a two-piece

"I would like to thank my parents, Dr. John and Yasuko Joyner, my brother Jahn, my friends and family and the amazing volunteers at Stellar Marianas for helping me prepare for this pageant—I truly appreciate it and I hope to make you all proud," she added.

Stellar Marianas, the islands' non-profit pageant and talent group, has this year the following sponsors: Delta Air Lines, MVA, Triple J Motors, IT&E, Pena House Boutique, Iridescent Boutique, Gold's Gym Saipan, Dickerson & Quinn Int'l Distributors, Dove, Suave, Daisuke Yanai Photography, Ernst & Young, Pacifica Insurance, Marianas Pacific Distributors, T Galleria, and Marianas Variety.

Stellar Marianas encourages the community to support Joyner by visiting the Miss International Pageant website, <https://www.miss-international.org>.

For more information and updates, visit Stellar Marianas Facebook page: www.facebook.com/stellarmarianas. (Stellar Marianas)

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DIM

From Page 7

will be no funding for existing programs. But that is money already committed, already spent. If you don't raise the debt limit, that means the federal government cannot borrow money and then we cannot pay our bills. So, it's very messy, it's contentious," Sablan said.

When asked how legislation regarding contract workers will be passed, Sablan said, "I don't know."

"That's why this 902 negotiation is very important," he added. "You have to get it done right because once you negotiate, it's going to require legislation... I don't know how to get it done. We have to see the end product" of negotiations, he said.

Responding to the call of Es-

ther Kia'ana, the U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, for "hard numbers" or data to present to Congress to explain the Commonwealth's dire need for workers, Sablan acknowledged that the CNMI does need those numbers but noted that the key number is "218 [votes] in the House and 60 in the Senate."

"That's the key number," he added.

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Bottomfish catch limits for the CNMI set at 228,000 lbs a year

HONOLULU—The Scientific and Statistical Committee, a group of fishery scientists who advise the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, concluded its two-day meeting in Honolulu yesterday by setting the 2016 and 2017 acceptable biological catches, or ABCs, for bottomfish in the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The ABCs are the amount of fish that can be harvested annually by the fisheries over time without causing overfishing of the stock.

After considering a variety of alternatives, the scientists set the ABCs to a level that corresponds to a 37-percent probability of overfishing in 2017 for American Samoa and 36 percent in 2017 for Guam and the CNMI. Federal regulations allow up to a 50 percent level of overfishing. None of the bottomfish stocks in the U.S. Pacific Island territories are currently overfished or experiencing overfishing. Historically, only Guam has experienced overfishing and only in the year 2000. Based on these risk levels, the 2016 and 2017 bottomfish ABCs are 106,000 lbs annually for American Samoa; 66,000 lbs for Guam; and 228,000 lbs for the CNMI.

The council will utilize these

ABCs to recommend annual catch limits, or ACLs, when it meets Oct. 21 and 22 in American Samoa. The council could set the ACLs at the ABC levels, which it has done in the past, or recommend ACLs lower than the ABCs based on social, economic, ecological or management uncertainties. The current ACLs (fishing year 2015) are 101,000 lbs for American Samoa; 66,800 lbs for Guam; and 228,000 lbs for the CNMI.

In addition to the bottomfish ABCs, the SSC during its meeting this week considered options to address continued Pacific-wide overfishing of bigeye tuna. Reports from the scientists will be forwarded to the council for its review. They include potential spatial management options, such as applying quotas only to the equatorial region, which is where bigeye tuna catches are highest; establishing separate quotas for each region in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean based on the stock assessment for that region; and closing the high seas to longline fishing in the area near the Line Islands that is suspected to be a bigeye tuna spawning area. The SSC also reiterated its recommendation that the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, the

international organization that develops the Pacific bigeye tuna quotas, require registration of fish aggregation devices as fishing gear.

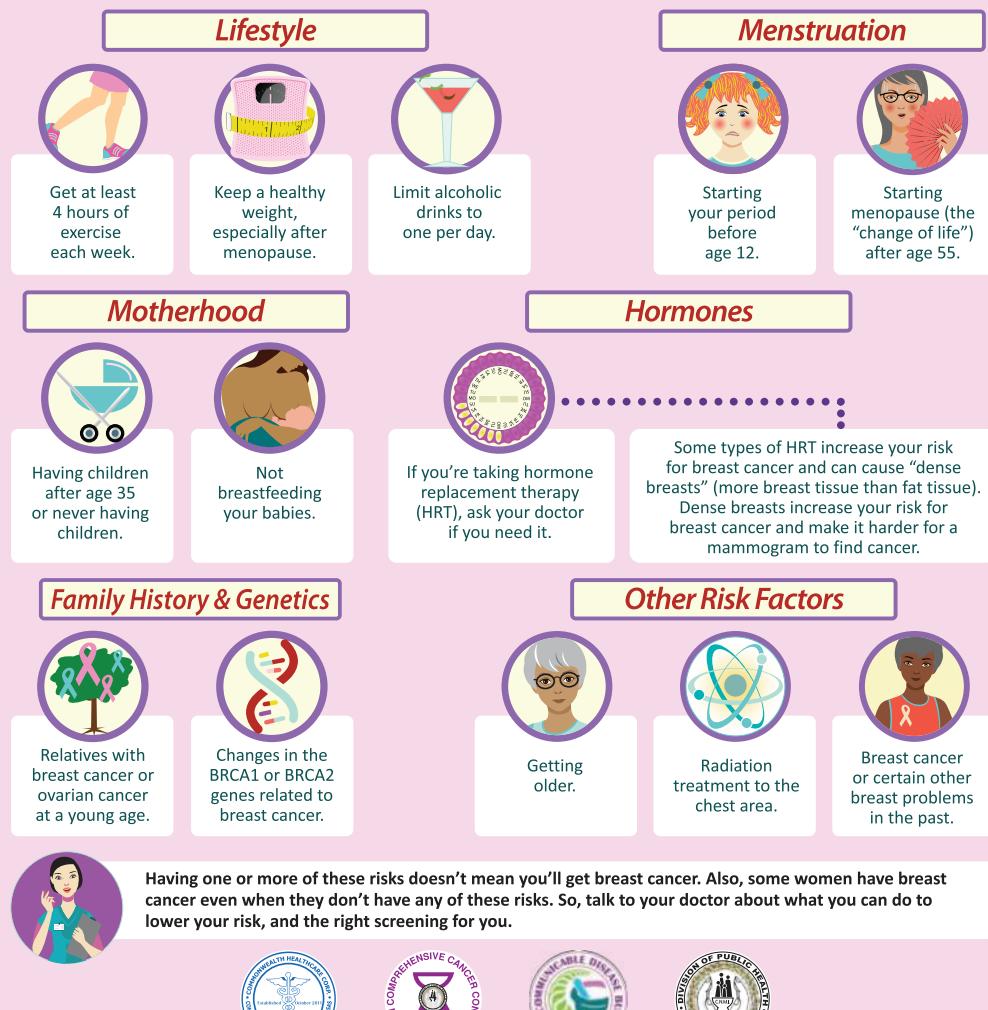
Action items on the council's agenda include specifying the 2016 catch limits for longline bigeye tuna for the U.S. Pacific territories and reviewing non-regulatory modifications to the Fishery Ecosystem Plans for the Western Pacific Region. For more on the council meeting, go to www.wpcouncil.org, email info@wpcouncil.org or phone (808) 522-8220.

The council was established by Congress under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1976 to manage domestic fisheries operating seaward of state waters around Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the US Pacific Island Remote Island Areas. Recommendations by the council are transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for final approval.

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council is composed of appointees by the Secretary of Commerce from nominees selected by American Samoa, CNMI, Guam and Hawaii governors. The CNMI representative is John Gourley, Micronesian Environmental Services. (Wespac)

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EDITORIAL

By DOYLE McMANUS

Los Angeles Times



Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com

Clinton wins the debate

Warning to all would-be Democratic presidential challengers: Debate Hillary Rodham Clinton at your own risk. Of all the candidates currently running in either party, Clinton has spent more hours in presidential-level debates than anyone else. She debated Barack Obama more than 20 times in 2008, and even won in some of those contests.

On Tuesday evening, Clinton's long experience showed. She was a virtual talking-point machine, turning nearly every question in the direction of something she wanted to say.

Question: How could she consider herself the right candidate in a year when many voters clearly want an outsider?

"I can't think of anything more of an outsider than electing the first woman president," Clinton said—one of at least four times she reminded the audience that she was the only woman on the stage.

Question: Why doesn't she agree with Sen. Bernie Sanders and others that the country's biggest banks—the ones that might be "too big to fail"—should be broken up?

"The plan that I have put forward would actually empower regulators to break up big banks," she said. "My plan is comprehensive, and frankly, it's tougher." ("That's not true," Sanders instantly replied.)

Question: How can Clinton call herself a progressive when she has historically taken moderate positions—on trade agreements, for example—that are out of sync with the liberal Democratic base?

"I don't take a back seat to anyone when it comes to progressive experience and progressive commitment," she answered crisply. "I'm a progressive, but I'm a progressive who likes to get things done. ... I know how to find common ground, and I know how to stand my ground, and I've proved that."

That, it turned out, was Clinton's main theme of the evening: that she is indeed a progressive Democrat—not, she insisted, a "moderate."

So Clinton seized every opportunity to trumpet her most progressive positions—her support for paid family leave, sweeping gun control legislation and "a new New Deal for communities of color"—and at the same time downplay the ones (on trade, the Keystone XL pipeline, Wall Street reform) where, at least until recently, she did qualify as a moderate.

And she embraced a role as partisan warrior, as if she were already—or again—the Democrats' presumptive nominee.

Question: Have you made any enemies you're proud of? "Probably the Republicans," Clinton said.

Sanders, Clinton's closest competitor, turned in a capable performance as well, and, importantly, avoided his occasional weakness of sounding angry.

"The middle class of this country has for the last 40 years been disappearing," Sanders said—his favorite talking point. "All of the new income and wealth that is being created is going to the top 1 percent." In case anyone missed it, he repeated the

See CLINTON on Next Page



Makkah hajj

The Muslim pilgrimage in September literally took a deadly turn when two groups going two separate and opposite directions collided in Mina where pilgrims go to "stone the devil."

The hajj pilgrimage is an annual security nightmare for Araby's House of Saud. At least Jerusalem has three ancient traditions—Semitic wisdom in the Temple Wailing Wall for the Jews, Islam's Dome of the Rock, and the garden of Gethsemani for Cristos' disciples. Orthodoxies may demure but the three have learned to co-exist. Makkah is exclusively Islam but it is a leveler of all the sects through the years.

My family's lineage points to Wesley. When I chanced on the "strangely warmed heart" site at Aldersgate in London, it was no treat. It was like going into a Midwest structure, or worse, like sauntering into Riverside Dr. by the Hudson in Manhattan to the National Council of Churches, or God forbid, the United Methodist Church. Whoopie!

It was in my old university town of Dallas that 14-year-old Muslim Ahmed Mohamed was handcuffed and escorted out by Dallas' finest for bringing in a clock he put together at home to show to his science teacher. His teacher told him to keep it in his bag. The clock's alarm went off in another class that alerted the teacher who marched Ahmed to the principal's office, igniting everyone's imagination including that of a police officer who thought the contraption was a hoax bomb and that became the basis for the arrest.

We have here a blatant case of the worst kind of profiling.

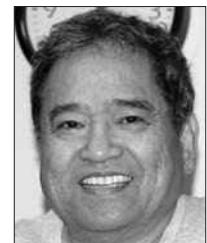
I self-defrocked in 2003 from the United Methodist Church, exploring metaphors on profound humanness other than the theistic language of Aquinas that was couched in the Egyptian cosmology of a three-tiered universe. The science on which contemporary theology hinges remains Ptolemaic, and while we know the theological scenario to be existentially pointing to human experience, its archaic language is more a stumbling block than an assistance to understanding.

Besides, the medieval language of "my Lord and King, Savior and Redeemer" does not fit the lowly Galilean carpenter Jacob Ibn Nazareth, whose daring march into Jerusalem and eventual crucifixion sparked our current era but obscured the man so badly that the task of demythologizing his personhood from the thick ecclesiastical garbs of power and status is monumental.

We read of the journey of Pope Francis in the United States, wishing that his message of common humanity in the consciousness of Earthrise was equaled by a reduction of the trappings in attire and style of his papal office. The pope remains a head office creature, and though our visit to the Basilica and the Sistine Chapel late '70s pointed to a place of elegant sanctity, it failed to promote the reality that profound humanity is no longer dependent on thunder and

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

lightning from Mt. Olympus, nor of the Roman tomé of Encyclical.

The thousand of hajj pilgrims in Mecca last month, and the solitary journey of 14-year-old Ahmed whose surprising ordeal earned him a trip to the White House, begs the issue of the relevance of organized religion in our time. The old not-one-of-our-kind bigotry we bestow against different others like Ahmed poses the human challenge.

Organized religion seethes underneath among adherents of the proselytizing kind. I attended SMU with Maryknoll Fathers in Dallas, Texas, and hung out with Jesuits and Oblates, so I warm up easy to the Catholic Church. Msgr. Tom Camacho at the helm of our CK Cathedral was a dear.

But a lovely parishioner in a secular committee with me expounded on truth as seen by her version of *Agnus Dei*, declaring any differing opinion as not just mistaken but wrong. The Spanish movement was conservative but not close-minded. I appreciated the lady's passion but she was no different from evangelical kin who view things as narrowly as she did.

The bigotry of the not-one-of-us-kind is not as evident among Catholics as it is amongst Protestants whose certitude emanates from belief propositions and the surety that other opinions are wrong.

I am told we have two mosques on island. Shi'a or Sunni, adherents are multiethnic, of equal footing at the hajj.

The Rock-of-Peter tradition comes in many colors and flavors, most of it stuck in the imagery of Aquinas' architectonic superdome of the medieval ages, or the Lutheran reformation, neither of which is understood nor relevant to the time.

There's a Zen Buddhist temple by Sugar King Park, a shrine-like structure by Banzai Cliff, so Buddha is around but discreetly. How appropriate.

A limited vision of religion does not understand why Carolinian youngsters bow before their elders to be blessed. It is a rite and ritual observed like the hajj that has marks of the profound human face.

In this age of humans (Anthropocene), 20 Islamic groups issued a declaration on global climate change; *an shalla* of "the great Nothing" and the world is blessed. ISIS is a coined word to demonize the not-one-of-us creatures. That's dumb, IMHO!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Lighting up

It's not too early to start laying plans for next year. With that in mind, I'm looking for another hobby. Chinese has proven too difficult for my feeble mind. Astronomy is a time-sucking black hole that pulls all the hours from my schedule. See? Finding a wholesome hobby isn't easy. Maybe my interests have been too esoteric. I think I should find something simpler and more popular for next year.

Meanwhile, I crossed paths with this number: 5.8 trillion. That's the worldwide number of cigarettes consumed last year. And, yeah, that's "trillion" with a "T."

So that's what everyone's been doing. They've been smoking! Talk about popular; it's hard to argue with that kind of number. Is smoking considered a hobby? I really don't know, but before I can short-list it as a prospect, I figured I should look into it a bit.

Of those 5.8 trillion smokes per year, China is the biggest market, followed by Russia and then the United States.

A 2012 *Washington Post* article took a look at 2011 per-capita cig consumption. Eastern Europe dominated the top of the list, with Serbia leading the pack with 2,861 cigs a year. Russia and many other nations in Eastern Europe were very close to that amount.

China, Korea, and Japan all shared the same general range with each other, roughly 1,800 a year, give or take a couple of hundred either way. That's still a lot of smokes per person.

I took a look at some U.S. data, but it's a little bit apples-to-oranges because what I saw wasn't a broad per-capita figure, but was, instead, a figure based on those 18 years of age or older. Anyway, on this note, InfoPlease.com lists the per-capita U.S. figure at 1,232 cigarettes for the year 2011, the most recent year listed.

To put that in perspective, in 1965 the figure was (yikes!) 4,259

cigarettes. That was the peak year. So smoking in the U.S. has come way, way down.

Shifting gears to yet another source of data, the Centers for Disease Control have a report that breaks things down by state. Here, again, we switch our age focus, and this data looks at the 15- to 35-year-old group. And instead of broad per-capita figures (which include smokers and non-smokers), this data is concerned with the percentage of a population that smokes.

Within that group, the year 2006 saw Kentucky with the nation's highest percentage of smokers at 28.6 percent. Next came West Virginia, 25.7 percent; Oklahoma, 25.1 percent; and Mississippi, 25.1 percent.

Utah had the smallest percentage of smokers for any state, at 9.8 percent.

From a quick perusal of the data, it looks to me that in the U.S., men are a bit more likely to smoke than women are. There are exceptions; in Montana, for example, a slightly higher percentage of women (19.6 percent) were tallied as smokers than men (18.5 percent) were; but the difference is so small it could just be statistical fuzz.

Health-conscious California weighed in with a 14.9 percent prevalence of smokers; for women it was 11.4 percent, for men it was 18.5 percent.

The Mariana Islands were not included in that CDC report, but Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands were. Smoking prevalence was 17.4 percent in Puerto Rico and 12.1 percent in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

From various sources, I've seen that smoking rates in Asia are often higher than the U.S., and the rates of smoking are usually heavily skewed toward males.

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit [Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com](http://EdStephensJr.com). His column runs every Friday.



Diberas: 'Dalai este...'

We sit quietly like industrial sponge, absorbing everything that spills around us. We express a sense of despair when, in our view, ill-conceived decisions are made recklessly from imperial Capital Hill. We react with "Dalai 'ste". Translated it simply means, "OMG, this is despicably beyond decency!"

Though usually expressed with civility, there's no mistaking the uncompromising disapproval of the unfolding event before them. It isn't new in either spirit or form.

The reaction hits home. Curious though the behavior where we just refuse to put our best foot forward to inflict realistic change.

It is this element that remains the larger myth. Does it matter or is the convenient forgetfulness or inability to remember our experiences a cultural thing too? And do we simply accept it lazily or step up to the plate to make a difference? Eh, I need help understanding this seemingly disorienting cultural demeanor or am I overreacting?

You see there's no such thing as waiting for a savior who would emerge and carry the load of the majority up ahead. Nah! Either we step up ourselves together or we're doomed repeating the same wishful thinking and mistakes of sheer victims of self-inflicted ignorance and acquiescence for another millennium. It's called procrastination! We can't afford it any longer!

Excess layers of government: Since time immemorial it seems our walking understanding of government is *more* government. We do this by creating layers of government without doing due diligence if there's a need for it. We even fail to budget for new positions! I suppose it's their version of planning in non-existent planning!

The CUC feud is a perfect example of more government lay-

ers: five more jobs each for Tinian and Rota. There's nothing the board could hang its hat on other than fume expletives for being caught with its pants down. We can't get our act together on small issues. Imagine if we had to dispose of the more substantive matters of state.

This adolescence is humiliating! CUC board members Alberto Taitano (Rota) and Eric San Nicolas (Tinian) are smiling nervously, completely oblivious to inference. But then what did we expect of shallow airheads smiling like fools as though punch drunk of their inability to grasp the gist of policymaking?

Collective stupidity: This decision means ratepayers—you and I—are hooked to paying the salaries and benefits of 10 more useless or drone government employees. It satisfies the ego of board members at the expense of ratepayers they simply refuse to protect as board members. Confused over policy versus micro-management? Obviously! Dumb!

Where's your sense of fiduciary duty? Why do you share the same mentality as Sen. Sixto Igisomar? Are you guys in collusion to pass more unsolicited costs on utility expenses because you've decided to play Santa Claus in October against ratepayers?

It's your ego versus our family pocketbooks, stupid! Does this make any sense at all to any of your retardant minds so clueless about anything that pertains to economics? It's family economics in real bad times, dumb head! How do we deal with collective stupidity?

The decision should hail from the acting CEO who has a walking knowledge what the agency needs, *not* what politicians suspect are needed as recommended in recent weeks. Sesuzz! When do we employ inference?

Sorry Lai: The recent intramural slugfest on the budget is as in-

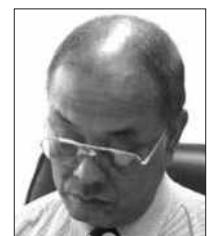
teresting as it is infuriating. Gov. Inos should have sought calming discussions justifying his decision on certain aspects of the budget.

He tactfully made the boys look superficially good but equally lame and shallow for messing the budget. I know the boys aren't taking it in stride. They'd be roaring back soon for a real war. The presiding officers aren't going to settle for political niceties. They'd be back with both barrels.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



As infuriating the week may be, I also got tons of laughs when the boys displayed how much they lack clarity on the supremacy of laws or the principle of separation of powers or how to stay constitutional. It's back to the drawing boards for the legislature.

We ponder and even make quick acknowledgments of the deepening hardship at home woefully nervous as it sinks into the sea of uncertainty.

Furthermore, there's the heavy tremor of disunity shaking GOP land between the governor's and Lt. governor's troops. Yes, even this hidden tremor turns, "Dalai 'ste"!

Thoughtful cruise: I'd even take cruises along panoramic beach road between Fishing Base and Oleai pondering upon issues that matter. Not sure where I missed the Chichipopo Train out of the Sugar King park.

But you quiz the seeming lack of perception or reluctant common sense from the pomposity of the elected elite. Why the constant misperception? Or perhaps it's a global pandemic that has finally landed on our shores?

Isn't this a tale of the guys and gals being long on political ambition woefully short on principles! Humiliating, isn't it? If you can't even employ "simple apprehension" then you have no business venturing into the serious work of policymaking!

Trust: It would be interesting to survey what percentage of the population still hold confidence or trust in what the administration and the legislature are doing. Give or take it's probably 50/50 at this juncture.

Economic depression and salary stagnancy of 14 years is way too long a drag and hardship on family purses. Well, with this I figure the approval rating ought to be much lower like 70/30 disgruntled voters?

CLINTON

From Page 10

point several times during the two-hour debate.

Sanders' main goal in this debate was to introduce himself and his positions to millions of Democrats who haven't heard him speak before, and on that count he was a success.

But it remains to be seen how those newly attentive Democrats will react to Sanders' call for a "revolution" to enact sweeping progressive legislation.

"The only way we really transform America ... is through a political revolution when millions of people come together and say our government is going to work for us and not just a handful of billionaires," Sanders said.

The kind of revolution he wants, he explained, was one of activism, in which millions of new voters swarm to the polls.

That drew a wry riposte from former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, one of the lesser-known candidates on the stage. "Bernie, I don't think the revolution's going to come," he said.

It's telling that the Las Vegas crowd warmed most to Sanders when he effectively defended his rival; he received his biggest ova-

tion when he said he did not intend to criticize Clinton over the controversy stemming from her decision to use a personal server for her email when she served as secretary of State.

"The American people are sick and tired of hearing about these damn emails," he said. "Enough of the emails. Let's talk about the real issues."

Was the audience applauding Sanders, Clinton or both? It's hard to say.

The other candidates on stage—Webb, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Rhode Island Sen. Lincoln Chafee—didn't make much of an impression. O'Malley in particular needed a striking moment to define his candidacy, which has languished Sanders' shadow; he didn't have one.

After weeks in which Clinton has spent time parrying criticism over her emails, her fundraising and her poll numbers, the front-runner was given a major national forum to remind voters that she's been a Democrat all her life, and can sound like a progressive when she needs to.

The Democratic National Committee, apparently under pressure from the Clinton camp, has limited the number of debates to six—a mistaken effort to protect the front-runner from harm. If Clinton has any sense, she'll soon write a letter demanding six more.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Damaging winds possible. Northwest winds 30 to 40 mph turning southwest Friday night. Cloudy with locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 83° ▼ 76°

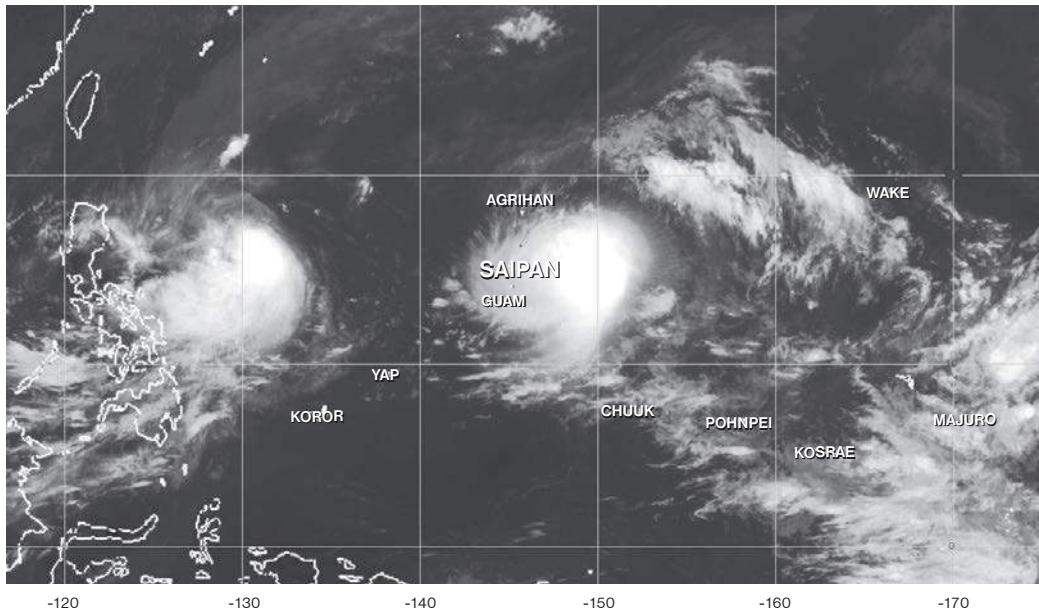
▲ 86° ▼ 76°

▲ 87° ▼ 77°

▲ 87° ▼ 77°

▲ 88° ▼ 77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Koppu (24W) is centered 590 miles north-northwest of Koror at 15N131E moving west at 12 mph with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph. Heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms are west of a line from 17N132E to 14N133E to 12N131E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northwest of Koror are within 75 miles of a line from 11N136E to 8N130E. Converging northeast winds are causing scattered showers along and up to 300 miles northwest of a line from 21N130E to 25N137E. For information on Tropical Storm Koppu, see bulletins issued by Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Tropical Storm Champi (25W) is centered 410 miles east of Saipan at 16N152E moving west-northwest at 13 mph with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph. Numerous showers and a few thunderstorms near the Mariana Islands are between 12N and 17N from 146E to 152E. For more information on Tropical Storm Champi, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW and by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM. A monsoon trough curves southeastward from Tropical Storm Champi at 16N152E across the Marshall Islands to a large disturbance centered southeast of Majuro near 4N178E. Patchy areas of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across the Marshall Islands and Tarawa and Butaritari atolls are between the equator and 14N from 167E to the date line. Surging southwest monsoon winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae within 150 miles of a line from 8N154E to 3N163E to the north of Tropical Storm Champi converging easterly winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 175 miles of a line from 22N154E to 17N166E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 78

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:25 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
10:57 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
9:59 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:09 AM	5:57 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	5:56 PM
Sunday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Monday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Tuesday	6:10 AM	5:54 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:30 AM	8:18 PM
Saturday	9:21 AM	9:04 PM
Sunday	10:12 AM	9:54 PM
Monday	11:03 AM	10:46 PM
Tuesday	11:54 AM	11:40 PM

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5039	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA5039	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA5038	12:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA5078	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA5077	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA5072	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA5079	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5038	12:15pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5038	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	twice weekly	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	twice weekly
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5	OZ625	8:20pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL276/288	9:20am	1:30am+1	twice weekly via NRT
OZ626/701	3:20am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5079	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ7			

FESTPAC registration is extended to Oct. 30

The Northern Mariana Islands Festival of Pacific Arts Organizing Committee has extended the registration period for CNMI artisans interested in participating in the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts in Guam in May 2016.

The FESTPAC Organizing Committee is asking local artisan groups and individuals interested in representing the CNMI in any of the festival categories to submit a registration form with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture by 4pm, on Oct. 30, 2015. Interested groups and individuals may download a registration form from the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture website (www.dcca.gov.mp) or from

the Marianas Visitors Authority Calendar of Events website (www.mymarianas.com).

The 12th Festival of Pacific Arts will be held on May 22 to June 4, 2016, in Guam.

The Northern Marianas has received approval from Guam to increase its number of delegates to 250.

"Our organizing team is excited that we are progressing in our planning despite the delegates to showcase our uniquely rich traditional cultural heritage to respectfully represent our cultural homeland with honor and dignity," said FESTPAC Organizing Committee chair John DLR. "Bolis" Gonzales.

The selection of participants will be made by the Com-

monwealth Council for Arts and Culture based on a set of criteria. Upon selection, delegates will be asked to pay a \$50 non-refundable deposit to secure their registration and will receive an official letter of selection as an endorsement for fundraising purposes. A mandatory meeting will be held for all delegates in November 2015.

Festival categories are:

- Performing arts: Traditional dance, drama/theatre, oral chants, oratory and storytelling, music, Jamz House.

- Literary Arts: Traditional storytelling/oratory, publications (Pacific Island stories and novels, Pacific biographies and journals), history, theater, fashion, indigenous language.

- Demonstrations/exhibition: Visual arts, floral arts, culinary arts, canoe and navigation, children's art show, photography, tattooing, traditional healing, body ornamentation, carving works, handicrafts, film festival, traditional games

- Demonstration/Exhibition: Fire walking, weaving, fishing and hunting traditions.

- Forums, workshops, seminars

Inquiries may be directed to Feofaaki McMahon at the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture at fe_mcmahon@yahoo.com or (670) 322-9982/3. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to these two special people in our lives: To Kianna Manglona, who will be celebrating her 25th birthday tomorrow, and to Julita Villagomez, who is celebrating her 60th birthday on Sunday. May you both enjoy every moment of your lives and may everyday bring something new and exciting for you both! May this birthday turn out to be as amazing as you two are! Greetings come from the Election office's staff.



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

REVISED DRAFT EIS FOR DIVERT ACTIVITIES AND EXERCISES, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The U.S. Air Force (USAF) announces the availability of the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Divert Activities and Exercises, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for public review. The USAF requests comments on the Revised Draft EIS, which is available for download on the project website address listed below. Hard copies may be reviewed at the locations listed below.

The Revised Draft DEIS analyzes potential environmental impacts of modified versions of the alternatives originally presented in the June 2012 Draft EIS. Since June 2012, the USAF determined the policies and objectives of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) would be best served by preparing a Revised Draft EIS, and seeking additional comments on changes made as a result of comments received on the 2012 Draft EIS. Based on public and agency input into the 2012 Draft EIS, the USAF removed the following elements from each of the three modified alternatives in the Revised Draft EIS: runway extension; permanent navigational aids; aircraft hangar; munitions storage facilities; arm/disarm pad; tent lodging; and fighter aircraft operations.

The Proposed Action is to improve an existing airport or airports and associated infrastructure in support of expanding mission requirements and to achieve divert capabilities in the western Pacific. Under this action, the USAF proposes to construct facilities and infrastructure at an existing airport or airports to support a combination of cargo, tanker, and similar aircraft and associated support personnel for divert operations, periodic exercises, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Proposed facilities would be used on an as-needed basis and would not be used as a permanent full-time beddown or installation location. Saipan International Airport and Tinian International Airport and small areas near the respective seaports are considered alternative locations for the Proposed Action. In accordance with NEPA and the USAF regulations for implementing NEPA in 32 CFR Part 989.19(e), the USAF prepared the Revised Draft EIS and is providing it to the public for review.

Electronic files can be downloaded from the project website address listed below. In addition, printed copies of the Revised Draft EIS will be available for review at the following locations:

Saipan: Saipan Office of the Mayor; Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

Tinian: Tinian Office of the Mayor; Tinian Public Library

Two Revised Draft EIS public meetings are scheduled, one in Saipan and one in Tinian. The public meetings will be open house format with poster stations. USAF representatives will be available to provide information and answer questions about the Revised Draft EIS, and comments will be accepted at the meetings. The open house meetings will be held in accordance with the following schedule:

Saipan: Wednesday, November 4, 2015, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Building D-1; Northern Marianas College, Susupe

Tinian: Thursday, November 5, 2015, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria

The public is encouraged to provide written comments to the USAF for consideration in preparing the Final EIS. Written comments may be submitted via postal mail, email, or the project website. All comments must be submitted or postmarked no later than November 30, 2015 EDT/December 1, 2015 ChST.

Mail comments to:

Ms. Ashley Conner, PACAF/PA
25 E Street, Suite G-108
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI 96853
ATTN: PACAF Divert Marianas EIS

Email comments to pacaf.paops@us.af.mil, or submit comments on the project website at:

www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com



JUDICIAL PRESENTATION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho was invited by Rota Department of Public Safety to give a presentation on search and seizure on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015. The presentation was held at the Rota Courthouse. In attendance were Rota DPS as well as Rota custom officers. Camacho also conducted the same presentation at Saipan DPS three weeks ago.



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- ❖ 670-484-5821 ❖
- ❖ legendrealtycnmi@gmail.com ❖

INFORMATION REQUIRED:

- ❖ Map location ❖
- ❖ Total Area ❖
- ❖ Building area (if with existing building) ❖
- ❖ Title information ❖
- ❖ Asking price ❖



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9715 • Facsimile (670) 236-9702



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Judiciary's records indicate that there is property held in the Superior Court's third party fiduciary account that has gone unclaimed for a period of one year or more. The apparent owners of this property are:

1. Maria Victoria S. Trinidad	15. Jun Miao Yuan
2. Li Zhen Wang	16. Emiliana Cabalteja
3. Su Juan Ni	17. Rudy K. Dela Cruz
4. Yu Juan Xue	18. Jinming Jin
5. Dong Mei Guo	19. Danilo Carasig
6. Liezel M. Bordios	20. Jun Qing Chen
7. Jesus S. Sablan	21. Wen Jian Zheng
8. Huawu Cheng	22. Yakui Yang
9. Perfecto Ramos	23. Hanzhe Xuan
10. Richard Cartwright	24. Gerry B. Malit
11. Ying Jian Shen	25. Changjin Cui
12. Xia Tang	26. Thomas Aldan Duenas
13. Jujun Zhou	27. Jihong Jin
14. Jerry Manglonzo	28. Williamito S. Angeles

Pursuant to the Judiciary Abandoned Funds Act, 1 CMC §§ 30101 - 30103, notice is hereby given of the Judiciary's intent to forfeit this property as it is presumed abandoned. This property is returnable to a person having legal or beneficial interest in the property upon request to the Administrator, Juan Diego V. Tenorio at 236-9700. A request for a return of the property must be made no later than April 12, 2016.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-16-001

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 29, 2015 to be considered.

One (1) original and Six (6) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-16-001, Workers' Compensation & Administration", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than November 17, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST). Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 30, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Procurement Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN RIEGEL
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Officer

NMI Republican Party issues rules for the 2016 Presidential Caucus

The Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Association recently amended their bylaws to establish the rules for the 2016 CNMI Republican Party Presidential Caucus.

The caucus will be held on March 15, 2016, with voting to occur on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. Association members will hold two votes: 1) a Presidential Preference vote, and 2) vote on the six delegates and six alternates who will join the three Republican National Committee members in representing the CNMI at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio from July 18 to July 21. The winner of the first vote will be guaranteed the nine votes from the CNMI for at least the first ballot at the convention.

In order for a Republican presidential candidate to appear on the ballot for consid-

eration, a filing fee of \$7,500 and letter of intent must be submitted to the RPNMIA by Jan. 1, 2016. Candidates for delegate must submit their intent to run by Feb. 15, 2016.

The RPNMIA joins several other U.S. states and the U.S. Virgin Islands in charging a filing fee. This fee was instituted to help delegates and alternates pay their travel expenses to and from the 2016 Republican National Convention.

RPNMIA president and RNC member James Ada stated: "The RNC amended their rules governing the nomination of a Republican candidate for President by requiring a candidate to obtain the majority of delegates from eight states/jurisdiction. This rule means that the RPNMIA doesn't just pro-

vide nine delegates; it will be one of eight for one of the candidates.

"The RPNMIA takes this responsibility seriously and we encourage every one of the current 15 Republican Presidential candidates to campaign in our beautiful islands and explain why they will be the best candidate not only for the United States but for the Commonwealth.

"While we only passed the rules on Sept. 30, the RPNMIA has already received the first \$7,500 from a Presidential candidate—Dr. Ben Carson—and we anticipate more will follow in the coming weeks," Ada said.

For more information on the rules and updates on the RPNMIA caucus email CNMIGOP2016@gmail.com and visit our Facebook page, CNMI Republican Party. (RPNMIA)

Senate seeks to compel DPL, DLNR to extend agricultural, grazing permits

BY DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate has passed a bill that, if enacted into law, will require existing agricultural and grazing permits to be extended to five years. Permits are "insufficiently" limited to one-year time spans, Senate Bill 19-47 says.

"Farmers and ranchers have been limited by Department of Public Lands and/or Department of Lands and Natural Resources to one-year permits for agricultural and grazing use of public lands," the bill states. "One year is an insufficient timespan...to provide sufficient security to any person investing capital or time in an agricultural business venture."

"The said departments may

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Linda Koshiro

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE STATE OF [] CIVIL ACTION
OF THE STATE OF [] NO. 15-0150
TETSUO KOSHIRO, [] NOTICE OF
Deceased. [] HEARING ON
[] PETITION FOR
[] LETTERS OF
[] ADMINISTRATION
Date: November 17, 2015
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: David A. Wiseman

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS,
OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE TETSUO KOSHIRO OR HIS
ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Linda Koshiro has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Tetsuo Koshiro, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition by Linda Koshiro, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on November 17, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to CHARITY R. HODSON, Attorney at Law, at the address hereinabove indicated.

Dated this 1st day of October, 2015.

/s/
Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Bank Pacific, LTD., [] CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff, [] NO. 15-0002
-v- []
The Estate of [] NOTICE
JESUS BASA BLAS and [] OF SALE
The Estate of []
SOLEDAD ACOSTA BLAS, []
DEFENDANTS. []

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 23, 2015, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants to and in the following property: Lot E.A. 832-1-14 (part of original Lot E.A. 832-1-R2 and part of original Lot E.A. 832-1-R1, E.A. 832), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 2134/88, the original of which was recorded June 24, 1988, as Document no. 88-2012, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 30, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 28th day of September, 2015.

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

George C. Mendiola and
Melissa Marie C. Appleby
PO Box 11873, Tamuning, Guam 96931
(671) 998-2480

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In re the Matter of [] FCD GU
Gen. Guardianship [] CIVIL ACTION
For: [] NO. 15-0478
T.S.C.A. and A.J.C.A. []
By [] ORDER OF
George C. Mendiola [] SHORTENING
Melissa Marie C. [] TIME AND
Appleby [] NOTICE OF
Petitioner(s) [] HEARING []

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, It is hereby ordered that the time for notice of hearing for Petitioner(s) petitions be shortened and that the hearing be set on 10/21/15 at 10:30AM in Courtroom 205A.

Dated this 14th day of Oct., 2015.

GRANTED: _____ X _____

DENIED: _____

Original Signed By:
Kenneth L. Govendo
Judge

Club 88 to open 2nd site at Mariana Resort

Club 88 is set to open its second e-gaming club at the Mariana Resort & Spa in November, starting with 50 gaming machines.

In the short time that Club 88 has been operating at Ocean View Hotel, it has established itself as a premium e-gaming venue.

"We are delighted at the progress of our first club at Ocean View Hotel and are excited about opening our second club at the premier resort [on] Saipan, Mariana Resort & Spa, in November. We look forward to training another group of local staff in this exciting industry and offer-

ing another option to enhance tourism, which is essential for Saipan and provides critical employment and tax dollars," said owner Victoria Scott.

Mariana Resort general manager Gloria Cavanagh said, "Mariana Resort and Spa is very pleased to welcome Club 88 to our resort and to be

able to offer our guests yet another option for them to enjoy their stay on Saipan."

Club 88 is an e-gaming group dedicated to providing the very best in gaming entertainment, with a focus on providing leading edge gaming products and top quality customer service. (Club 88)

Club 88 launches mural contest for 2nd club

In conjunction with the opening of its second e-gaming club at Mariana Resort and Spa in November, Club 88 will sponsor a competition to paint a mural on the exterior wall of the veranda overlooking Mandi Asian Spa and the Pacific Ocean. The winner will be awarded a cash prize of \$1,500 to paint their design and showcase their talents. This competition is open to all local resident artists.

"We are delighted to be able to provide an opportunity for a local artist to complete a unique, island-themed art work and have that available for the public to enjoy," said Victoria

Scott, owner of Club 88.

The "canvas" for the mural is an outdoor wall measuring approximately 25 feet in length by 20 feet in height and will be painted by the selected artist. Paint and materials will be provided by Club 88. Subject material for the mural should be in keeping with the

island/ocean theme; for example, ocean, reef, dolphins, sunset, etc.

Interested artists must submit their full-color design by the closing deadline of Oct. 30, 2015. The winning design will be announced Nov. 3. Designs should be submitted to Michael Holl, (670) 233-0888; Club88MHoll@gmail.com. (Club 88)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

More than 100 guests attended Susan Macario's birthday bash last Oct. 9 at Aquarius Beach Tower. Photo shows her posing with some of Shirley's Coffee Shop staff.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

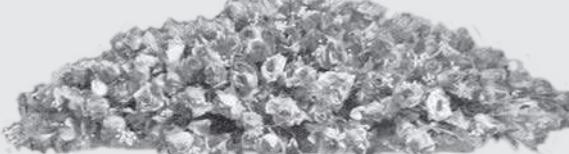
Shirley's Coffee Shop general manager Susan Macario blows the candles of her birthday cake during the 58th birthday celebration held last Oct. 9 at Aquarius Beach Tower.



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TO: MARIA AYUYU, Administratrix of the Estate of Lorenzo Aldan Ayuyu, Deceased:

The Estate of Lorenzo Aldan Ayuyu is in default of a Promissory Note dated February 2, 2006, secured by a Real Estate Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by Lorenzo Aldan Ayuyu to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot no. 011 G 946, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 917 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 18 dated December 13, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4286, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage: February 2, 2016; \$28,000.00

(c) Amount due for principal: \$963.36 as of April 1, 2015

(d) Amount due for interest: \$7,212.02 as of April 1, 2015

(e) Daily accruing interest: \$4.13

(f) Late charges: -0-

If the principal, interest, and late charges, \$8,175.38 as of April 1, 2015, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees in the amount of \$500.00, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice, the Estate of Lorenzo Aldan Ayuyu will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against the Estate to foreclose upon the said Mortgaged because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30)-day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Very truly yours,
/s/ Michael A. White, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

I Estate of Lorenzo Aldan Ayuyu ti ha komple i kontratan debita (Promissory Note) ni ma fitna gi Febrero 2, 2006, ni afabot i Real Estate Mortgage ma assegurao i tano yan guma ni ma empeha gi mismo dia, ma fitna yan ma entrega i empeha. (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Mariana

(a) I deskripsiun tano ni ma empeha (mortgaged):

Sito numero 011 G 946, ni gaigi gi Kagman III, Saipan Note Marianas, ni ha konsiste un area 917 kuadra metro, mas pat menu, ni anok gi Division Tano yan Midida Tano ofisial Cadastral Plat numero 011 G 18 gi Disembre 3, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File numero 93-4286, guihil i deskripsiun ni ma incorporate guini ginen i infotmasion

(b) I kantida yan i fechan este na debi yan empeha: Febrero 2, 2006; \$28,000.00

(c) Kantida un debi para principal: \$963.36 asta ki Abril 1, 2015

(d) Kantida un debi para interes: \$7,212 asta ki Abril 1, 2015

(e) Interest kada dia: \$4.13

(f) Apas pot atrasao (late charges): -0-

Yanong ti un apasi i kantida na principi, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) \$8,175.38 asta ki Abril 1, 2015 yan interes, yan i resnable na apas abugado pot \$500.00 gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di i fecha ni un resibe este na notisa, i Estate of Lorenzo Aldan Ayuyu ma konsidera komo ti ma komple i kontrata (default), ya siempre u-matutuhan konta i Estate a kausan kotti ni para una kondena ya una bendi i propriadat tano ni empeha guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe na kata yan un kontra minagahet-na pot i apudera sino komo i pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asentadu a apudera. Pago yangin i kattayi ham gi halom este i trenta (30) dias silko man infotmasia hao pot i apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, puses bai in henta infotmasion pot i dibu-mu dispues un ma kattayi i kopia pot este na de unta. Anai resibe i katta-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias silko, bai in na'i hao i na an yan address i acredito komo ti parehu na acredito ma indika guni hulu.

Este na katta para u ma na'kesiha ma rikoh i dibu-mu. Maseha hafa na infotmasion ni i resibe pot este na apudera - siha bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu resibe para este i debi-mu.

Su Seguro Servidor,
/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

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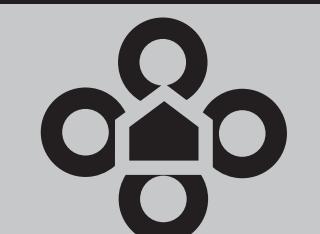
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Country House, Moby Dick partner with local NGOs

» G*GAP Band to hold fundraising concert this November on Saipan

Tucked ever so quaintly on the southern edge of Garapan's commercial district are two of Saipan's longest running restaurants, each very distinct in its identity: one being a country western-themed steak house and the other an enigmatic (like its namesake) getaway corner for seafood. Opened in the early nineties ('92 and '98 respectively), the Country House and Moby Dick restaurants (both subsidiaries of Nippon General Trading Corp.) are mainstays of Saipan's dining-out culture and a favorite among locals and tourists alike.

And yet there is far more to maintaining a successful business, particularly in any small community, than meets the eye. For the Nippon group, providing local jobs and cranking out delicious foods from day to day



is simply not enough.

According to its general manager, Kato: "We believe it's important to contribute in other ways to our respective communities and so each year we try to identify charitable causes that we can get behind and support through fundraising and cash donations whenever possible."

In what has become an annual endeavor to make charitable donations, Nippon General is once again partnering with the G*Gap Band, a premiere country western band out of Japan, to raise funds.

"Unlike previous years, when we split fundraising proceeds between local causes

and those on behalf of tsunami victims in Japan, this year we decided to put all proceeds from this year's fundraiser toward strictly local causes here on Saipan," Kato said.

The G*GAP Band is no stranger to Saipan, having made annual treks here to hold fundraising concerts for several years dating as far back as 2011. Past beneficiaries have in-

NMPASI volunteer board member Rob Torres, back row, third from left, and NMPASI executive director Jim Rayphand, back row, second from right, pose with Country House executives and G*GAP band members during last year's concert intermission at Hafadai Beach Hotel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

cluded tsunami victims in Japan and tornado disaster victims in Oklahoma.

Among its beneficiaries this year are the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. more familiarly known as NMPASI, a non-profit organization founded in 1993 to provide free legal services on behalf of eligible individuals with disabilities, and newly founded CNMI C.O.R.E., or Community Outreach for Recovery Efforts, a hodgepodge group of individuals and local organizations joining together to facilitate and coordinate recovery efforts in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor.

NMPASI executive director Jim Rayphand said: "We're humbled once again that

Mr. Sago (owner of Country House) and Kato would recognize NMPASI's efforts on behalf of people who have disabilities by including us as beneficiaries of this wonderful event. Last year's G*GAP Concert was a blast and I suspect the same will be true for this year..."

In a kind of pre-emptive strike, G*GAP's vocalist and guitarist Ryuiji Hirao sent his regards from Japan with a \$500 donation to NMPASI. Kato delivered the donation on his behalf. "Unbelievable and thank you," was all Rayphand could say about the kind gesture.

This year's concerts will be held on back-to-back nights at the Country House Restaurant on Nov. 6 and 7 with doors opening at 6pm for a 7pm to 9pm show. Tickets are \$25. Other sponsors include, Miller Lite, Certified Angus Beef, Visitors Channel, Triple J, KSPN2, Pacific Trading Co., Asahi, Country House Japan and NMPASI. For more information, call Country House Saipan at (670) 233-1908. (NMPASI)



Country House HR manager Alexia D. Lisua, left, hands over cash donation to NMPASI executive director Jim Rayphand, second from left, outside of the NMPASI office in Gualo Rai. Also in photo are NMPASI client advocate Cleo Nening and legal counsel Matt Holley.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

High court vacates post-judgment interest rate determination

On Oct. 13, 2015, the Supreme Court issued a ruling in *Commonwealth v. Lot No. 353 New G*, 2015 MP 6, vacating an order of the trial court that established a post-judgment interest rate in an inverse condemnation takings case.

The subject of the appeal stemmed from the 1993 taking of lots owned by Maria Mangabao. It is the second appeal involving the parties—the first appeal examined whether the trial court's denial of the appellant's motion for a writ of execution was an error. In that opinion, the

Supreme Court affirmed the trial court's order; further, it held the appellants were entitled to post-judgment interest.

Subsequently, the trial court considered a number of interest rates presented by the parties. It then set the post-judgment interest rate to 4.136 percent simple interest. On appeal, the appellants argued that the trial court erred because it failed to apply the correct legal standard and it selected an inappropriate interest rate.

The Supreme Court's opinion first addresses the Com-

monwealth's challenges to the high court's jurisdiction. After establishing its jurisdiction, the high court held that, in this case, the trial court should not have considered the current value of the property in its post-judgment interest rate determination. Furthermore, it held that the trial court erroneously awarded simple interest because such award was unsupported by the record.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is available at <http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme15.html>. (NMI Judiciary)

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE
SERVICE AND REPAIRS OF GENERATORS AT THE
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND PORT OF SAIPAN
CPA-RFP-003-16
AMENDED

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (The "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP"), and other contract provisions, for proposals from qualified individuals, firms, companies and/or corporations to provide Generator Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs at the Saipan International Airport and Port of Saipan.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50, Procurement Rules and Regulations of Title 40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The successful proposer will be awarded 2 years to perform the services with option to renew for an additional 2 years at the sole discretion of the CPA.

The proposal package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning September 18, 2015.

The proposal package includes the Scope of Work and other considerations upon payment of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) to be paid at the CPA Accounting Office. Payment shall be in cashiers' check or cash only. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Proposers shall take into consideration all necessary bidding requirements and fees for this project. Proposals must be submitted no later than 4:00 P.M., October 23, 2015 to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This RFP does not commit the CPA to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure a contract for services.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Regular Board Meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, October 22, 2015 10:00 a.m.** at the NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes – May 20, 2015 Regular Board Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
a. Division Reports

IV. OLD BUSINESS
a. Garapan Annex RFP
b. USDA RD Payoff Approval
c. Salary Comparative Analysis
d. CDBG Matters
e. Stipulation Agreement

V. NEW BUSINESS
a. Saipan Comfort Homes' Amendment to LIHTC Application
b. Loan Deferral Requests for Board Approval
c. 2015 LIHTC Application Approval
d. Properties for Sale

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ EDWARD C. SABLAN
Acting Chairman of the Board

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY • CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 15-MOT-139

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: OCTOBER 29, 2015 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF TINIAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE BIDDER MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A)-(D).

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS
MAYOR OF TINIAN

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY • CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 15-DLNR/DFW-134

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2015 TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"LEASE OF WAREHOUSE FACILITY FOR DLNR – DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE – CONSERVATION ENFORCEMENT SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Nation

Clinton's strong debate is general election warning for GOP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton's polished performance in the first Democratic debate did more than send a message to her primary rivals. It was a warning to the chaotic Republican field about her likely strength in a general election.

Clinton solidified her shift toward more liberal positions on trade, gun control and immigration, but still stayed largely in step with the battleground state voters she'll need in November 2016. She also positioned herself as heir to the coalition of women, Hispanics and black voters that propelled Barack Obama to the White House, and she potentially held off a late challenge from Vice President Joe Biden.

"I'm a progressive," she declared before a television audience of more than 15 million people. "But I'm a progressive who likes to get things done."

The Republicans' raucous first two debates, meanwhile, exposed the party's deep divisions and the pressure on GOP candidates to appease conservative primary voters. That could again leave the eventual nominee scrambling to recalibrate on issues including immigration and women's health in order to win over a national electorate that is more racially and ideologically diverse than primary voters.

It's a familiar conundrum for

California now says violent inmates have long fought fires

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—About 1,400 of the state's 3,700 inmate firefighters have previous convictions for violent offenses, California corrections officials said Wednesday, a stunning acknowledgment from an agency that for years said only nonviolent prisoners were allowed in the program.

The disclosure came two days after The Associated Press reported that the corrections department was considering expanding the criteria for inmate firefighters to include those with some violent convictions and with more time left to serve on their sentences.

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation spokesman Jeffrey Callison said the department provided inaccurate information to AP and other news outlets and on its website. He said inmates with violent backgrounds have been serving since at least the 1990s.

A lawmaker and the head of the union that represents state firefighters called for investigations.

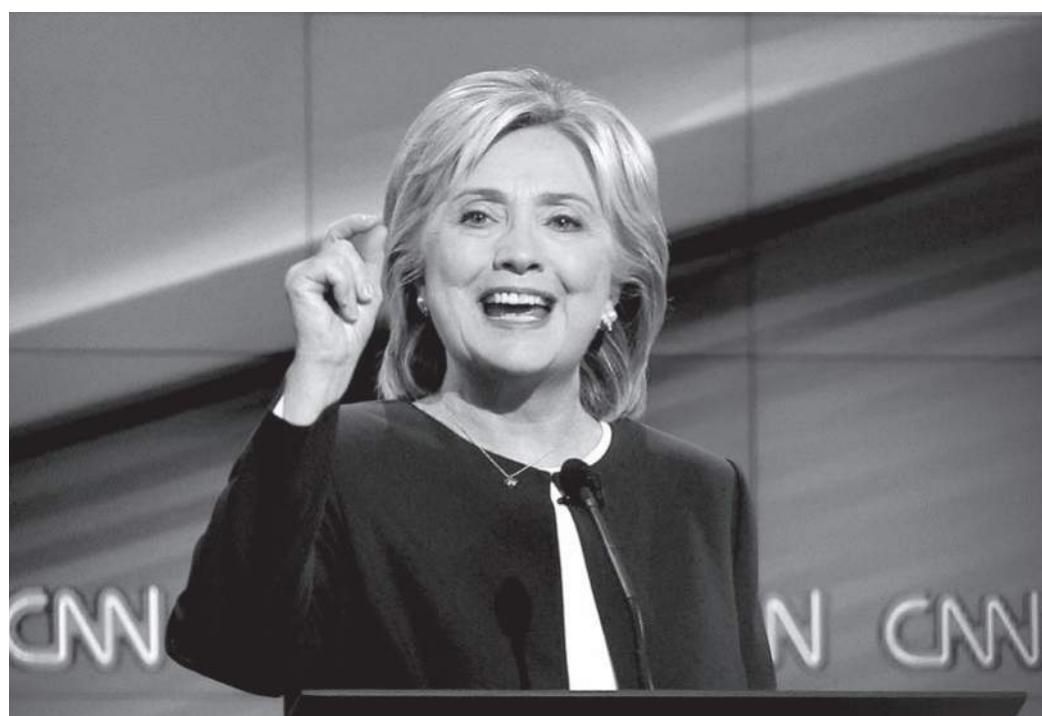
Callison blamed the misstatements on differing definitions of what constitutes a violent background. Although the penal code includes hundreds of offenses considered to be violent,

the party, yet one potentially deepened by the rise of Donald Trump and Ben Carson, candidates whose inflammatory comments seem to only boost their standing in the primary. Candidates who are favored by more traditional Republicans, like Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio, risk being associated with the rhetoric of their rivals—or never find a way to overtake them.

The GOP contenders scrambled Wednesday to blunt the notion that Clinton has positioned herself as a general election force. Rubio said Clinton was locked in "a race to the left to see who could be the most radically liberal, the most big-government." And Bush cast Clinton as the beneficiary of a Democratic field that sidestepped confrontations over her private email use, a controversy that has dogged her campaign for months.

"In a partisan crowd you could see how that would work out, but I don't think Mrs. Clinton's been forthcoming and I think she has created a problem for herself by not being forthcoming," Bush said Wednesday night while campaigning in New Hampshire. "It is a big deal, and there needs to be some clarity on it."

Added Trump, "I think the Democrats, frankly, I think they are protecting her."



Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks during the CNN Democratic presidential debate Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2015, in Las Vegas. AP

Police unsure what 'sins' provoked attack on brothers

NEW HARTFORD, N.Y. (AP)—The fatal beating of a young man and the savage attack on his younger brother by relatives and fellow members of an upstate New York church was intended to get them to confess their sins, investigators said, but they still haven't determined what those supposed sins were.

Police said spiritual "counseling" at the Word of Life church turned into an hours-long attack Sunday night in which Lucas Leonard, 19, and his 17-year-old brother, Christopher, were pummeled with fists and kicked. They suffered injuries to the abdomen, genitals, back and thighs.

Eventually, Lucas Leonard stopped breathing and relatives took him early Monday to a hospital, where he died, police

said. Authorities went to the church and found his younger brother, who was hospitalized in serious condition.

"Both brothers were subjected to physical punishment over the course of several hours, in hopes that each would confess to prior sins and ask for forgiveness," Police Chief Michael Inserra said Wednesday.

He said investigators were still working on details of what provoked the attack.

The brothers' parents, Bruce and Deborah Leonard, were charged with manslaughter in Lucas' death. Four other adults were charged with assault in the younger brother's beating, including Sarah Ferguson, 33, the victims' sister.

All the suspects pleaded not guilty. Lawyers for the parents

and the sister had no comment.

Seven children, four of them Ferguson's, were turned over to child welfare authorities.

Police said more arrests are expected as the investigation continues.

"We're not alleging that they intended to kill their son," Inserra said of the parents, but "they were attempting to seriously hurt their son, and he died as a result."

After Lucas Leonard was brought to the hospital, police suspected his younger brother had been hurt, too, but his relatives wouldn't tell officers where he was, the chief said. After searching for hours, police found him on the second floor of the church.

Word of Life has existed for as many as 30 years in New Hartford.

The beatings took place at the red-brick former elementary school that serves as both a church and a communal home for several members of the congregation, including one of the suspects. It has long stirred curiosity and suspicion in New Hartford, a once-thriving mill town of 22,000 people about 50 miles from Syracuse.

Nearby, in the village where the Leonard brothers lived with their parents, neighbors recalled a highly religious family that kept mostly to itself.

"I'm really afraid. In my heart I don't think this is the first incident," said Eva Monaghan, who lives around the corner. "Over all the years, I can't imagine this is the first thing. Maybe nothing as bad. Around town, it's considered a cult."

Hawaii longline fishermen allowed to resume catching tuna

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii fishermen are once again being allowed to catch a prized tuna species in the fleet's most productive fishing grounds west of the islands, sparking criticism that they are adding to overfishing.

The National Marine Fisheries Service closed the fishery in early August because Hawaii-based longline fishermen hit an annual bigeye tuna catch limit of about 3,500 metric tons set by international regulators.

But the agency on Friday created a rule allowing the fishermen to report up to 1,000 metric tons of bigeye as being caught by the Northern Mariana Islands, which is a U.S. territory. The change allows Hawaii fisherman to catch more bigeye tuna than the maximum set by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

The commission, which is an

international body that regulates fishing by the U.S., Japan, China and other nations fishing the area, doesn't set limits on the catch of territories.

The two-month closure of fishing grounds affected 145 active vessels in the Hawaii longline fleet, said the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, which develops management plans for U.S. fisheries in Hawaii and other Pacific islands.

"Arbitrary quotas not linked to conservation objectives kept our boats tied at the docks," Kitty Simonds, the council's executive director, said in a statement. "The struggling vessels and small businesses they support accumulated millions of dollars in debt each month, causing untold anxiety for our local fishing community and consumers."

Environmentalists have sued

the fisheries service to stop the attribution of bigeye catch to U.S. territories, arguing it undermines international agreements aimed at eliminating the overfishing of bigeye. The case is pending in federal court in Honolulu.

David Henkin, an attorney for Earthjustice which is representing the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, called the agency's latest decision "shortsighted." He said all developed fisheries—like Hawaii's longline fishery—need to reduce their catch to make sure bigeye is available for future generations.

"What the fisheries service has been doing in response to industry pressure is absolutely the wrong thing for consumers who want to have sustainable food, and food to put on the table for their children and their children's children," Henkin said. "And really ultimately

it's not the right thing to do for longliners themselves if they want to continue that tradition in their families."

Mike Tosatto, Pacific Islands regional administrator for the fisheries service, said the reopening will have a negligible impact on the status of bigeye stock. He said the fisheries service reassesses the catch attribution plan each year to make sure it addresses overfishing.

"The fisheries service obviously takes addressing overfishing seriously," Tosatto said.

Bigeye stocks in the area are down to about 20 percent of their unfished levels, according to data from the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Scientists advising the commission have warned about bigeye overfishing every year since the international body was established in 2005.

Clinton aides insist the former secretary of state isn't taking the Democratic nomination for granted. While her strong debate performance may have hardened her standing as the party's front-runner, she still faces tough competition from Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent and self-proclaimed democratic socialist.

Yet Clinton left no doubt that she's setting her sights on the GOP field.

"I can take the fight to the Republicans, because we cannot afford a Republican to succeed Barack Obama as president of the United States," she said. She referenced Republicans a dozen times during the two-hour debate, even putting the party alongside the Iranians and National Rifle Association on a list of enemies she was proud to have made.

Asia

China and North Korea ties warm

BEIJING (AP)—The two men raised their clasped hands above their heads like a pair of victorious athletes, as international media and tens of thousands of North Koreans looked on. The gesture by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and a top Chinese official during a high-profile celebration in Pyongyang seemed designed to scotch appearances that their countries have been drifting apart.

Now the big question: Will warmer relations with China moderate the North's provocative and unpredictable behavior, seen by many as the biggest threat to peace and security in northeast Asia?

Liu Yunshan, the ruling Communist Party's fifth-ranked official, was Kim's most prominent foreign guest at Saturday's military parade and mass rally marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Worker's Party of Korea. Liu and Kim shook hands and raised their arms together on the balcony of the palatial People's Grand

Study House.

The evening before, the two had met at a state guesthouse where Liu handed Kim a personal letter from Chinese President Xi Jinping renewing the traditional friendship between the communist neighbors and stating China's desire to further develop ties, according to China's official Xinhua News Agency.

Kim, Xinhua said, responded that Liu's presence was a sign of the "deep affection" between the sides and a "great encouragement" to the North.

"I believe this visit will play a major role in transmitting the North Korea-China friendship and developing bilateral relations," Kim was quoted as saying.

Liu closed his remarks by reiterating China's hopes for a resumption of six-nation talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons programs, something Pyongyang has refused to do since they bogged down in 2009, stifling one of Beijing's more successful diplomatic gambits.

Kim did not respond directly, saying only that North Korea wanted peace and improved relations with South Korea to build its economy and improve quality of life. North Korea has repeatedly said it has no intention of giving up its limited nuclear weapons capability.

"I think this is a gradual restoration of a sense of normalcy between the two countries," said Jingdong Yuan, a specialist on Asia-Pacific security at Australia's University of Sydney. "Bilateral relations have really been strained to some extent because of North Korean provocations."

It's conceivable that Liu's visit has already discouraged a new provocation. Weeks before Saturday's parade, comments in North Korean media had led some analysts to suspect the North planned to mark the party anniversary with a satellite launch that would have been viewed internationally as an illegal test of long-range-missile technology.

Australian police investigate 12-year-old terror suspect

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Authorities have warned that suspected terrorists in Australia are becoming younger, with a 12-year-old boy now under investigation by security agencies.

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Andrew Colvin told Australian Broadcasting Corp. television late Wednesday over the last 12 months the terrorist threat has evolved and become younger.

"We're shocked that a 12-year-old is on police radar for these types of matters," he said.

Colvin was commenting ahead of an urgent national summit of federal and state law enforcement officials convened by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in the national capital Canberra on Thurs-

day to counter violent extremism.

It follows the shooting death outside a Sydney police building on Oct. 2 of police accountant Curtis Cheng by 15-year-old Farhad Jabar. Iranian-born Jabar was later shot dead by police.

"The shocking murder of Curtis Cheng, a shocking act of terrorism perpetrated by a 15-year-old boy, reminds us yet again that radicalization, extremism can be seen in the very young. People that we would regard as children," Turnbull said at the start of the summit.

ABC reported on Wednesday that the 12-year-old boy was the youngest of 18 suspected extremists named in a court document in March. The boy's name has not been published.

Terror suspect Ahmad Naizmand, 20, was barred from contacting the 18—including five children—under the terms of a control order issued by a Sydney court in March. A control order is a counterterrorism measure that restricts the activities of suspects even if they have not been charged.

The government announced this week that it will legislate to reduce the age of suspects that can be subjected to such control orders from 16 to 14 years.

Colvin declined to comment on the ABC's allegation that the group had been attempting to source a gun as early as March. He also declined to say where Jabar got the revolver he had used.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Aquino favorite Roxas files to run for PH president

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Former Interior Secretary Mar Roxas, the administration bet in next year's Philippine presidential race, has registered his candidacy as election fever heats up in one of Asia's most rambunctious democracies. President Benigno Aquino III heard mass with Roxas and his running mate Rep. Leni Robredo, and family members at the Manila Cathedral Thursday before they filed to run at the Commission on Elections office across the church. Roxas and Robredo are running under Aquino's Liberal Party. The elections commission says 60 people have registered to run for president and 13 for vice president so far. But the commission says most are unknown, add those determined in an evaluation to be "nuisance candidates" who cannot mount a national campaign will be stricken from the candidate's list. The election is in May.

PH court orders owner of capsized ferry to pay \$5.5M

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court has ordered the owners of a passenger ferry that capsized as it sailed into a typhoon seven years ago to pay about 242 million pesos (\$5.47 million) to the families of dozens of passengers who perished.

The Manila Regional Trial Court ruling made public Wednesday found Sulpicio Lines Inc., which operated the MV Princess of the Stars, negligent for sailing the vessel through the path of the storm on its way to Cebu City. The ferry capsized as it was battered by huge waves and fierce winds on June 21, 2008, off the central Philippine island of Sibuyan. Only 56 of around 900 passengers and crew survived. Rescuers found the 23,824-ton ferry belly up with more than half of its keel above the water.

Vietnam accuses China of sinking fishing boat

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam has accused China of sinking one of its fishing boats near disputed islands in the South China Sea that could further raise tensions between the Communist neighbors. Phan Huy Hoang, an official in central Quang Ngai province where the fishermen came from, said Thursday that a Chinese vessel slammed into the fishing boat with 10 fishermen on board near the Paracels islands on Sept. 29 and sank it. The fishermen were rescued by another Vietnamese fishing boat and the case was reported to authorities when the fishermen returned home two days ago. Hoang says more than 20 Vietnamese fishing boats have been attacked by Chinese vessels this year. He says a formal protest will be made to China.

World

Iran sending fighters to Syria



In this November 24, 2011 file photo, pro-Syrian government protesters shout slogans and wave Iranian and Syrian flags during a protest in front of the Iranian Embassy to thank Iran for their support of the Syrian government, in Damascus, Syria. AP

President Bashar Assad.

The development is almost certain to increase pressure on Western-backed rebels, who are battling multiple foes, and push more civilians out of the areas of fighting, potentially creating a fresh wave of refugees.

Russia began its air campaign Sept. 30, and Syrian troops and allied militiamen launched a ground offensive against rebels in central Syria a week later. Russia says its airstrikes are meant to weaken the Islamic State extremists in eastern Syria seems a secondary priority to propping up

As attacks continue, Israeli army begins deploying troops

JERUSALEM (AP)—Hundreds of soldiers fanned out in cities across Israel on Wednesday and authorities erected concrete barriers outside some Arab neighborhoods of east Jerusalem in a stepped up effort to counter a monthlong wave of Palestinian violence that has seen near daily attacks.

Despite the escalated security, two assaults were reported Wednesday—the stabbing of a 70-year-old Israeli woman outside a crowded Jerusalem bus station and the attempted knifing of police officers outside the Old City.

The enhanced measures came

Study: Ebola in male survivors can survive up to 9 months

LONDON (AP)—Doctors have found that Ebola can linger in some male survivors for up to nine months but aren't sure if that means they might still be infectious, according to new research.

In a study of 93 men in Sierra Leone, scientists found the Ebola virus in semen samples from about half of them. The risk seemed to decline over time. Ebola was detected in all nine men tested at two to three months after their illness began but in only 11 of the 43 survivors tested at seven to nine months.

Researchers aren't sure why Ebola remains in semen as opposed to other bodily fluids and don't know if the lingering

as Israel struggles to contain the spiraling violence and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces heavy pressure from hard-liners in his governing coalition to stamp out the attacks. The Palestinians called the new measures "collective punishment" that would only further enflame tensions.

The military's deployment of six companies to back up thousands of police marks the first implementation of steps approved by Israel's security Cabinet early Wednesday, which also include stripping attackers of their Jerusalem residency rights and demol-

virus might sicken others.

"We think there is a potential risk of exposure but we cannot determine that with 100 percent certainty right now," said Dr. Nathalie Broutet, an expert in sexually transmitted diseases at the World Health Organization and one of the study's authors. The paper was published online Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

WHO said previous studies showed the virus could survive in semen for about three months, though it noted one case where it remained for about six months. The U.N. health agency has said the sexual transmission of Ebola from

say most of the strikes have focused on central and northern Syria, where the extremist group does not have a strong presence.

The official, who has deep knowledge of operational details in Syria, said the Iranian Revolutionary Guards—currently numbering around 1,500—began arriving about two weeks ago, after the Russian airstrikes began, and have accelerated recently. The Iranian-backed group Hezbollah has also sent a fresh wave of fighters to Syria, he told The Associated Press.

ishing assailants' homes. The Cabinet also authorized police to impose closures on centers of friction and incitement in Jerusalem.

Israel has been unable to stop the attacks, carried out mostly by young Palestinians apparently acting spontaneously with no affiliation to or backing from organized militant groups. That, coupled with the frequency of the attacks, which have killed eight Israelis this month, including three on Tuesday, has unnerved Israelis who fear the violence could deteriorate into another Palestinian uprising.

men to women is "a strong possibility" even though the disease is mainly spread by direct contact with other bodily fluids like blood.

To date, Ebola has killed more than 11,000 people in West Africa in the outbreak that was first identified last year and now appears to be winding down. There's also about 17,000 Ebola survivors, about half of them male.

The journal also published details of an Ebola case in March in Liberia, where a male survivor spread Ebola to a woman via unprotected sex five months after he became infected.

Off The Wall

'Law forced woman to sue nephew over medical bills'

Appeals court again considers fate of seized gold coins worth \$80M

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A federal appeals court is again weighing the fate of 10 rare gold coins possibly worth \$80 million or more that the government says were illegally taken from a Philadelphia mint and wound up in a jeweler's hands.

A lawyer for jeweler Israel Switt's heirs told the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday that authorities gave up any right to the coins when they failed to respond to the family's seized-property claim within 90 days.

The Treasury Department insists the \$20 Double Eagles were stolen from the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia before the 1933 series was melted down when the country went off the gold standard.

They argued the heirs, Joan Langbord and her sons, cannot lawfully own the coins, which she said she found in a family bank deposit box in 2003. The government regained possession of the coins when the family brought them to the Secret Service to be authenticated.

So far in the decade-long battle, both sides have been declared winners.

In 2009, a judge ruled that

the government improperly seized the coins and denied the family due process when officials at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia decided to keep them after the family asked that they be authenticated. Two years later, a jury found the seizure had been legal because the coins hadn't been circulated and must therefore have been stolen.

A three-judge appellate court flipped the result again in April, ruling 2-1 in favor of Switt's family.

Federal prosecutors then asked for another shot before the full appeals court, leading to Wednesday's hearing. No timetable for a ruling was given.

The coins are being held at Fort Knox, Kentucky, for safekeeping.

The Mint struck nearly a half-million of the Double Eagles in Philadelphia in 1933 but never released them. They were melted into gold bars after President Franklin D. Roosevelt abandoned the gold standard.

Sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens designed the Double Eagle with a flying eagle on one side and a figure representing liberty on the other.

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—A woman who sued her 12-year-old nephew for \$127,000 over injuries she received when he exuberantly greeted her at his birthday party four years ago was forced to go to court over her medical bills, her lawyers said Wednesday as backlash against her on social media sites poured in.

A jury on Tuesday rejected Jennifer Connell's lawsuit, finding the boy was not liable for her injuries. She had said she broke her wrist when the Westport boy jumped into her arms at his 8th-birthday party, causing her to fall.

Jainchill & Beckert, Connell's law firm, said her nephew's parents' insurance company offered her \$1 over the fall, which occurred at their home. She had no choice but to sue to pay medical bills, they said, adding that she has had two surgeries and could face a third, her lawyers said.

"From the start, this was a case ... about one thing: Getting medical bills paid by homeowner's insurance," the law firm said Wednesday in an emailed statement. "Our client was never looking for money from her nephew or his family."

Peter Kochenburger, an in-

surance law specialist at the University of Connecticut School of Law, said state law typically requires those claiming injury to sue the individual responsible.

"In Connecticut and most states, if you have a claim against someone for negligence, you sue that individual, not the insurance company," he said.

Connell's lawsuit said her "injuries, losses and harms" were caused by the negligence and carelessness of the youngster, who should have known his "forceful greeting" would have injured her. A six-mem-

ber Superior Court jury found that the boy was not liable.

Jainchill & Beckert said Connell, a 54-year-old human resources manager from New York City, is being attacked on social media and has "been through enough."

On Twitter, she has been vilified as a terrible aunt, the most hated woman in America and an awful human being.

Many took aim in particular at her statement to jurors, reported by the Connecticut Post, that because of her injury she could not easily hold an hors d'oeuvre plate at a recent party.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

DAVID KAPILEO PETER TAULAMWÁÁR

Born to Life: June 20, 1941 • Born to Eternal Life: October 8, 2015

He now joins his:

Parents: Edward Malighar Peter & Cecilia Somorang Kapileo Peter

Parents-in-law: Benedicto Satur Taisakan & Bibiana Angailen Taisakan/Magdalena Teregeyo Taisakan

Grandson: Xaylen Augustine M. Peter

Son in-law: Felipe R. Nogis

Brothers/Sisters & In-laws: Isidro K. Peter, Preperdigna P./Miguel I. Kileleman, Esteban I. Limes, Rosa P./Rolando P. Afable/Esteban M. Mettao, Ignacio T. Mendiola, Theodore Joab, Guillermo L. Saures, Doris T./Joseph T. Ogumoro, Luis T. Iguel

His spirit will live in the hearts...

His lifelong partner Maria Malua T. Peter

The fruits of his love...

Viola C. Alepuyo/Joseph James N. Camacho (Ulen Joseph)

Vivian P. Nogis (Cecile Katricia/Wesley, Jonathan Richard (JR), Luanne Gene/Utalap, Lance NedAlfred, Antonette Michaela, Phillip Pio, Paseva Kumiko, Francis Rayne)

Carolyn P./John M. Hosono (MarcAnthony Kazuo, Keoni Seichi, David Kiyoshi, Malua Kiana, Keanu Goro, Kenji John, Kanicio Benedicto)

Marco T./Kina B. Peter (Kayannie Ilifighar, Maili Ilariyol)

Taula T./Leokadya M. Peter (Xandra Tate, Xayna Joy)

Anthony Peter N. Malighar

and his children by heart...

Angel S. Hocog, Frankie W. Limes, Agatha Renata K. Ketebengang, Dolores "Menam" M. Iginoef, Debra L. Tenorio, Kody P. Kapileo, Susan Joab Saimon, Abraham I. Igisaar Jr., Daniel & Tia Reginald

Brothers, Sister & In-laws: Rosa L. Peter, Angelina P. Limes, Rufina P. & Gregory Miles, Edward K./Melody L. Peter, Emerenciana P./George Palican, Joaquina T. Mendiola, Rosa T. Joab, Ignacia T. Saures, Antonio N./Mary Susan Satur, Ramona T./Diego Rebuenog, Domitilia Taisakan/Santiago L. Saures, Valentin I./Cris Taisakan, Sinforsa T./Pedro S. Kaipat, Engracia T./Juan Pelisamen, Marina T. Iguel/Paul Santos, Combiniano I. Taisakan/Molly Retan, Maria T./Leo L. Saures

The rosary is being prayed **nightly** at their residence in Chalan Laulau at **7:30p.m.** On

Friday, October 16 at 4:00p.m. our beloved

will be transported to their residence in Chalan Laulau for wake services. The

rosary will be prayed at 7:00pm followed

by the responso services. On **Saturday,**

October 17 at 8:00a.m. our beloved will

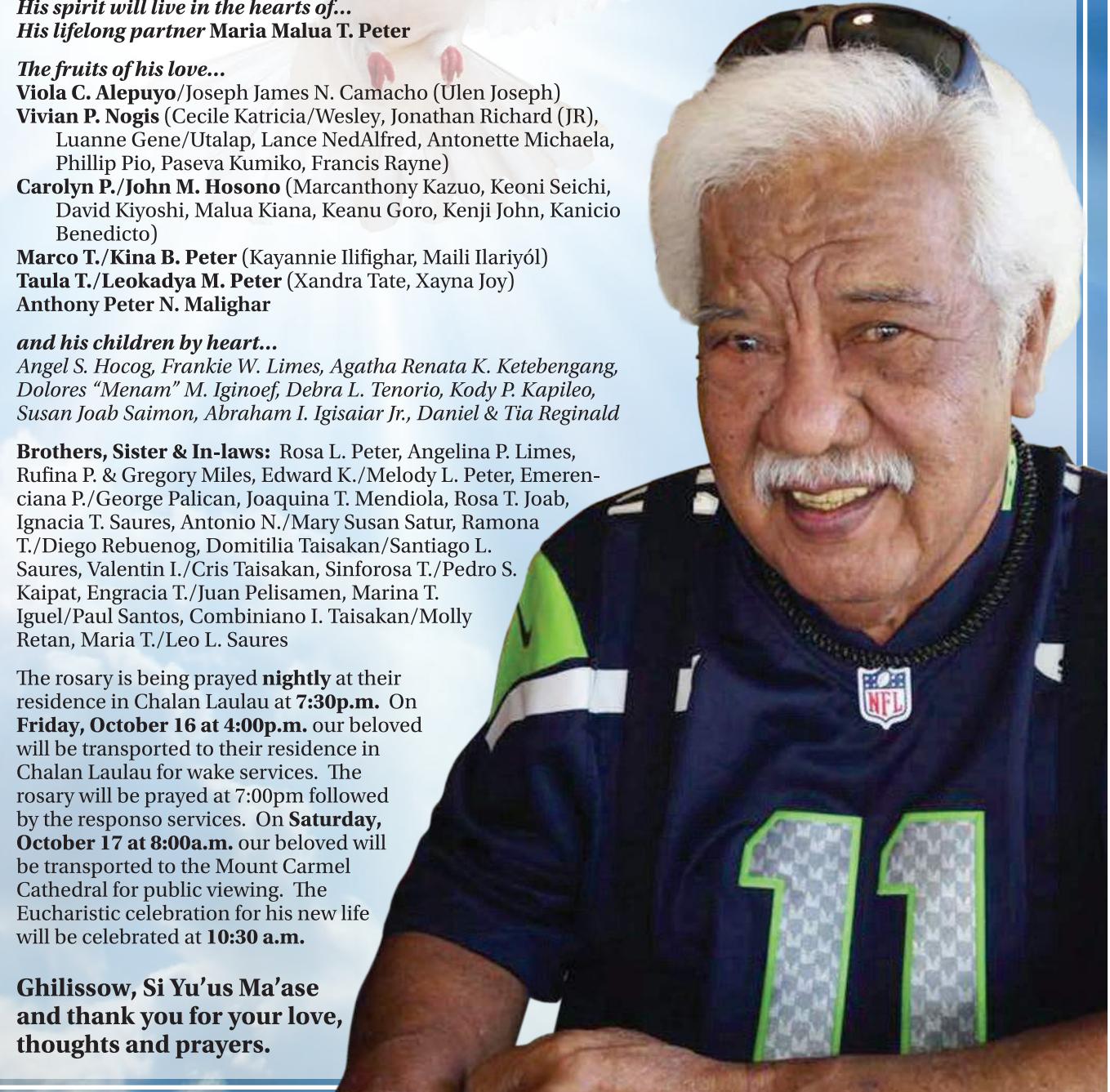
be transported to the Mount Carmel

Cathedral for public viewing. The

Eucharistic celebration for his new life

will be celebrated at **10:30 a.m.**

Ghilissow, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and thank you for your love, thoughts and prayers.



Pesky owl at Maryland park doesn't give a hoot about runners

BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—Park officials are warning of an aggressive owl that is believed to have attacked runners on a popular trail in Bethesda, a Maryland suburb of the nation's capital. At least three runners on the Capital Crescent Trail have reported being attacked by a large bird, one of them identified as a barred owl. The attacks occurred after nightfall or before dawn in the past two weeks. Officials say the runners suffered only minor scratches when the bird swooped down on their heads from behind. Montgomery Parks spokeswoman Melissa Chotiner says barred owls are typically active at night and are territorial. She suggests making noise as an owl approaches and tucking in any ponytails.

Santa Claus elected to North Pole City Council

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP)—Santa Claus has been chosen to represent the people of North Pole. The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reports that a man whose legal name is Santa Claus won a write-in campaign for an open City Council seat in the 2,200-person Alaska town of North Pole. He began campaigning in his red velvet suit just two weeks before the Oct. 6 election. Claus received 58 votes and a seat on the six-person Council. No official candidates had filed for the two City Council positions. The second open seat was won by write-in candidate Elyse Dawson, a youth pastor at the North Pole Assembly of God. Claus is the former president of the North Pole Chamber of Commerce.

Science & Technology

Facebook seeks to conquer the workplace

By QUEENIE WONG
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

MENLO PARK, Calif.—What's taboo in some workplaces is just business for Stella & Dot employees, who use Facebook to connect with thousands of stylists selling the company's jewelry and fashion accessories.

So when Facebook approached the California company this year about testing a separate version of the social network, called "Facebook at Work," Stella & Dot jumped on board, joining more than 100 other businesses.

"There isn't really a strict line for us between social media in the workplace versus social media out there in the world. We blur the identity quite a bit," said Meera Bhatia, Stella & Dot's vice president of product.

Facebook, where 1.5 billion people share wedding photos, vacation selfies and random thoughts, is making its way into the office and plans to launch a work version of the site in several months. But as the world's most popular social network tries to shed its image as a website meant only for personal time, Facebook will also have to convince a variety of businesses that the work version can foster collaboration more than procrastination, experts say.

"We've all seen the five sec-



Stella & Dot's Meera Bhatia, left, vice president of product, and Christy Dinges, vice president of people, check their Facebook at Work page at their office on Sept. 28, 2015 in San Bruno, Calif. Their company started testing the new Facebook at Work product a couple months ago.

onds when a boss walks by and somebody clicks out of Facebook," said Rebecca Wettemann, vice president of Nucleus Research, an information technology research firm in Boston.

The social media giant isn't the first tech firm to offer a social tool to help employees communicate with their co-workers, Wettemann noted; Salesforce's Chatter, Microsoft's Yammer, SAP's Jam, IBM's Connections, LinkedIn and Slack are

just some of the other options already available.

Research on those sites shows they can make employees more productive. For example, Nucleus Research found in 2011 that users of Salesforce's Chatter experienced a 12.5 percent bump in productivity because of fewer emails and a more rapid access to work information.

"We see social collaboration driving productivity when it's linked to giving employees bet-

ter information to do their jobs. Facebook's challenge is breaking its perception of 'social not working' to show how they can really provide value in the workplace," Wettemann said.

About 88 percent of employees surveyed by law firm Proskauer Rose in 2013 and 2014 revealed they harnessed the power of social media for business, up from 76 percent in 2011.

But the survey also showed that many employees are using social

Financial services startup Square files for \$275M IPO

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Square, the financial-services startup that helps small businesses process credit card payments, is planning to go public.

The six-year-old company is known for its white, cube-shaped card readers that plug into smartphones and tablet computers, turning them into electronic sales terminals. It's also known in the tech industry for being founded and led by Jack Dorsey, 38, who was separately named CEO of the social networking service

Twitter last week.

Dorsey, who owns 24.4 percent of Square, co-founded Twitter in 2006 and has said he'll continue to run both companies.

Square filed regulatory papers on Tuesday for an initial public stock offering valued at up to \$275 million, although that figure could change. While some larger tech startups have recently delayed going public, Square's filing has been expected and records show the company previously filed a con-

fidential declaration of its plans over the summer.

San Francisco-based Square says it had \$850 million in revenue last year. Revenue for the first half of this year was \$560.6 million, an increase of 51 percent over the same period last year.

But the company had a net loss of \$154.1 million in 2014, and a loss of \$77.6 million for the first half of 2015; overall, it's piled up an accumulated deficit of almost a half billion dollars since its inception. It warned that it may continue to

generate losses as it invests to expand the business. Square also warned that a major customer, Starbucks, is planning to stop using its service sometime before the third quarter of 2016.

Square has added new services in an effort to diversify its business over recent years. The company provides financing to small businesses and a payment service known as Square Cash that lets individuals and businesses transfer funds to each other. It also operates Caviar, a food delivery service for restaurants.

TECH BYTES

Jury: Apple infringed on Wisconsin university's tech patent

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—A federal jury that found Apple Inc. infringed on a technology patent held by the foundation that protects the University of Wisconsin's intellectual property has begun hearing testimony in the damages phase of the case. The jury in Madison on Tuesday rejected claims from the technology giant that the patent was invalid and no infringement took place. On Wednesday, both sides presented testimony on damages in a phase expected to last into Friday. The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation sued Apple in 2014 claiming it used the foundation's patented technology in its latest processors, which power iPhone and iPad devices. The technology dates to 1998 when the work of four UW researchers was patented. The foundation sued Intel Corp. over the same patent in 2008 and settled for an undisclosed amount.

Netflix adds 3.62M subscribers in 3Q, but US growth lags

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Netflix is hooking fewer U.S. viewers than it hoped, even as its binge-watching addiction rapidly spreads to other parts of the world. The Internet video service added 3.62 million subscribers during the three months ended September, it announced

Wednesday as part of its third-quarter earnings. That's slightly more than the company had predicted. But Netflix didn't gain as many U.S. subscribers during the latest quarter as management anticipated, a shortfall that it blamed on an unusually large number of accounts cancelled because the company couldn't charge their credit cards. The company believes the trouble is tied to the new credit-card account numbers banks are issuing as they adopt card technology based on computer chips instead of magnetic stripes.

Twitter names Google's Omid Kordestani as executive chairman

NEW YORK (AP)—Twitter has named Google's Omid Kordestani as its executive chairman. Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey tweeted the move Wednesday. He says Kordestani is a proven and experienced leader that will coach him and help recruit the best people to Twitter. Kordestani joined Google, which recently renamed itself Alphabet, in 1999 and currently serves as that company's chief business officer. He previously worked for Netscape, Hewlett-Packard and Go Corp. Kordestani says he's excited to work with Dorsey and Twitter's board. The news comes a day after Twitter announced plans to lay off up to 336 employees as part of its cost-cutting efforts. That's about 8 percent of its workforce of 4,100 people.

employees use, are also known for blocking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube at work.

Even though Facebook at Work looks identical to a person's personal Facebook, it's meant solely for communicating with co-workers, which could make users think twice about what they're posting.

"People will be more careful about what they post because they know it's going to be surveilled. There's also probably a fear by some people that you don't want to use Facebook too much in the workplace because you'll be perceived as not doing your job," said Gloria Mark, an informatics professor at the University of California, Irvine.

TECH Q&A

Don't assume Web apps store data in cloud

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I'm under the impression that the Google Chrome browser and the Google services Gmail, Drive and Picasa store all my data in the Google cloud. That means if my laptop or Android phone crashes or gets lost, I can retrieve my data. Am I right or wrong?—Karen Hillger, Garrison, Minn.

A: It's a little more complicated than that. Google Drive (file storage), Gmail (email and email attachment storage) and Google Photos (picture storage) automatically store your data to the cloud. But Google's Chrome browser and its Picasa photo editing program require you to take action before data is stored online.

Because Picasa is a downloadable photo editing program, it normally stores pictures on your computer, not in the cloud. You must manually select and upload the pictures that you want to store in the cloud using a program feature called "Picasa Web Albums."

To save Chrome's settings (such as bookmarks, history and saved passwords) in the cloud, you must sign into Google with your Gmail address and password while using Chrome. See tinyurl.com/p5ywwh.

Once you sign in, changes you make in the browser's settings and saved data will be copied to the cloud. If you sign out, new changes won't be copied online.

But backing up your data to the cloud only works if you have enough online storage capacity. Google Drive, Gmail and Photos (including Picasa online photos) share 15 gigabytes of free cloud storage. (Chrome settings use little online storage space.) If you need more cloud storage capacity, you can buy it from Google for \$2 a month per 100 gigabytes.

Why would you need that much additional capacity? Your pictures could rapidly eat up your 15 gigabytes of free cloud storage.

If you set Photos to save your pictures at their original quality (several megabytes per picture), each photo will count against your storage limit, and you'll get to 15 gigabytes before long. But if you set Photos to save your pictures at an unspecified lower quality, Google doesn't even count them against your 15 gigabyte limit. What's the trade-off? Saving the photos at lower quality means they will be "compressed," a technique that permanently subtracts some data from them. Compression will limit your ability to enlarge those pictures in the future.

Q: The top row of keys on the keyboard of our HP Pavilion G7 laptop PC have stopped working. I've read online that other owners of that model are having similar problems, but none of the suggested fixes seems to work. Is it time to buy a replacement keyboard, or is there a solution?—Paul Holt, Lakeland, Fla.

A: There doesn't appear to be a simple solution because no one can agree whether the cause is software or a faulty electrical connection. I suggest you buy a replacement keyboard online for less than \$25. For a video on how to replace the old keyboard, see tinyurl.com/pbes4sr.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Life & Style

Lamar Odom's spiral leaves ex-NBA star fighting for his life

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Lamar Odom didn't last long at the glittering intersection of championship success and Hollywood celebrity.

Cut loose by his beloved Los Angeles Lakers, followed everywhere by reality television crews, the humble kid from Queens who married into the

Kardashian clan saw his life spiral out of control, and so did everyone else.

Khloe Kardashian tried to hide his addictions, then told the world she couldn't save him. The two-time NBA champion landed on Skid Row, a regular tabloid target.

Then he seemed to drop

out altogether before he was found unresponsive in a brothel and hospitalized, bringing his estranged wife, his former teammates and the world's attention back to his side Wednesday.

Hospital authorities would not comment on the condition of the 35-year-old former NBA

forward, but the Rev. Jesse Jackson was among his visitors Wednesday. Jackson said Odom was on life support and improving.

"Apparently from what the doctor said, he was much better off today than yesterday. He at least has some responsiveness now," Jackson said. "He's got tubes in him now, but we felt inspired by his presence."

Odom, who was embraced by teammates and television fans alike for his Everyman approach to fame, was found face-down and alone Tuesday after spending four days at the Love Ranch, a legal Nevada brothel.

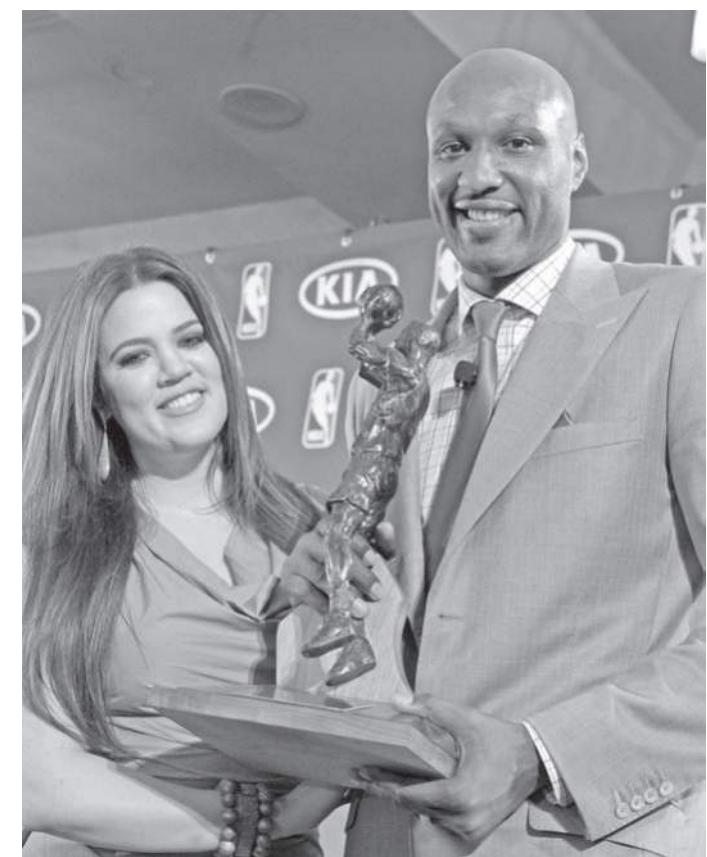
Odom started "throwing up all kinds of stuff" after a 911 operator told them to turn him on his side, Love Ranch owner Dennis Hof told The Associated Press in a phone interview. Odom had "spent time socializing with some of my girls" but wasn't seen taking any illegal drugs, Hof said.

In a recording of a 911 call, Hof's spokesman Richard Hunter said Odom was breathing but in a "deep sleep" and had fluid coming from his nose and mouth.

"He sounds like he's snoring a little bit. But he is breathing consistently," Hunter said.

It was Odom's first visit to the Love Ranch, and he told employees he did cocaine before he arrived Saturday, Hunter said.

Odom also took up to 10 tabs of an over-the-counter sexual performance enhancer over the course of his stay, Nye County Sheriff Sharon Wehrly said at a news conference. Sheriff's Detective Michael Eisenloffel described the enhancers as supplements and said Odom bought them at the brothel.



In this April 19, 2011, file photo, Los Angeles Lakers' Lamar Odom and his wife, Khloe Kardashian, pose with his trophy as the winner of the 2010-2011 NBA Sixth Man Award, as the basketball league's top reserve, at a news conference in Los Angeles.

and 2012.

Khloe Kardashian called him "Lam-Lam" and worried openly about him on the show. Even after they split in 2013, cameras recorded her calling him and checking on his welfare.

People always seemed to root for Odom, whose prematurely weathered face wore the impact of his personal tragedies in a friendly way. And news of his hospitalization brought an outpouring of dismay and encouragement from his friends and family.

Kobe Bryant joined Kardashian and some of Odom's childhood friends at his bedside after a Tuesday night Lakers game in Las Vegas.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'America's Next Top Model' leaving the runway in December

LOS ANGELES (AP)—TV's "America's Next Top Model" is leaving the runway. The CW reality competition series will wrap in December with the current season's finale. In a statement Wednesday, network President Mark Pedowitz called the series "a global pop culture phenomenon." Tyra Banks, the program's host and executive producer, just launched the syndicated daytime talk show "FABLife." "America's Next Top Model" debuted in 2003 on the now-defunct UPN channel and was the first series on fledgling CW in 2006. The "America's Next Top Model" finale will air Dec. 4. There may be another chance to say goodbye. The network is discussing a retrospective that would air in late 2016.

'The Situation' enlists new attorney for tax fraud case

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—"Jersey Shore" reality TV show star Michael "The Situation" Sorrentino has a new attorney for his federal tax fraud case. Newark lawyer Henry Klingeman says Wednesday he's "looking forward to helping (Sorrentino) and the court move the case forward."

Among Klingeman's former clients is "Real Housewives of New Jersey" star Teresa Giudice. She is currently in prison after pleading guilty to tax charges. Sorrentino and brother Marc have pleaded not guilty to charges they filed bogus tax returns on nearly \$9 million and claimed millions in personal expenses as business expenses. Sorrentino's first attorney withdrew in August, saying Sorrentino failed to pay his bills. A trial isn't expected before December. Sorrentino appeared on all six seasons of MTV's "Jersey Shore," which followed the lives of a group of young Italian-Americans.

Chinese activist-artist Ai Weiwei writing memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—Ai Weiwei, the Chinese artist, activist and dissident, is working on a memoir. The Penguin Random House division Crown announced Wednesday that it would release the book in the spring of 2017. Currently untitled, Ai's memoir will cover everything from his time living in the United States in the 1980s and '90s to his numerous clashes with Chinese authorities, including his 81-day detention in 2011. In a statement issued through Crown, the artist said he would describe the

"struggle for individual freedom and self-expression in this old society." Ai often uses his work to draw attention to injustices in China. He also played a key role in designing the "Bird's Nest" Beijing National Stadium ahead of the 2008 Olympics, a project he later said he regretted.

Hyatt hotels banning on-demand porn movies in hotel rooms

Hyatt Hotels will no longer offer on-demand pornographic movies in its rooms, the company said Wednesday. "This content will not be introduced to any new Hyatt hotels, and it will be discontinued or phased out at all hotels," the company said in a statement. Hyatt is just the latest hotel company to ban on-demand adult entertainment from its rooms. Decreasing revenue from movie rentals in hotels has driven the trend, with movie rental revenue per available hotel room dropping from \$339 a year to \$107 a year between 2000 and 2014, according to a report from PKF Hospitality Research. Hotel guests are renting fewer in-room movies because they can watch them on smartphones or laptops instead. Hyatt, a U.S.-based company, owns 618 properties in 51 countries. (AP)

Fiance can't get his arms around habit of cuddling

DEAR ABBY: I'm on the verge of 30, and my fiance has a huge issue with the fact that I still cuddle with my mom. From what he says, his family isn't wild about it, either.

Mom has suffered a great deal of loss in her life. She has lost all of her immediate family (aside from her kids) to cancer. We were all caretakers for these family members, doing in-home hospice, and we have formed a unique bond.

My fiance has never even been to a funeral, so it's hard for me to explain this to him. Mom was born in a country in Europe where hugging and lots of affection are natural.

I live out of state, but when I'm home I will put my head on Mom's shoulder and cuddle with her while watching a movie. Sometimes in the morning I'll bring her a hot cup of coffee, put it next to her bed, and jump in with her and her dog. We joke, laugh, cuddle until we have to get up. Is this something I need professional help for, as certain people have had the nerve to tell me?

AFFECTIONATE IN ALBANY, N.Y.

DEAR AFFECTIONATE: It should be clear to you by now that you are engaged to a man who comes from a family that isn't comfortable with physical demonstrations of affection, and is quick to judge others. Treasure the closeness you have with your mother while you have it because, after she's no lon-

ger with you, that special kind of affection will be permanently over.

For your fiance or his family to suggest there's something wrong with cuddling with your mother, or that you need "professional help" because you do it, is both sad and wrong. Many people would find the relationship you share with her to be enviable, and I am one of them.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 27-year-old man dating a woman the same age. "Kelli" and I have been happily together for two years.

My sister's recent wedding prompted me to start ring shopping. My sister used this opportunity to come forward "on behalf of the family" to tell me marrying Kelli would be a mistake. She proceeded to spout off two dozen reasons why we shouldn't be together—ranging from Kelli's lack of social graces to her haircut. Then she gave me an ultimatum to choose between Kelli and her.

Things have calmed down in the weeks since, but I am concerned my family will never trust my judgment and will mistreat Kelli. I have never been treated so well by a partner, and I don't want to lose her. Please give me some feedback.

STUCK IN THE MIDDLE IN MARYLAND

DEAR STUCK: To say that your sister's outburst was out of line would be an understatement. That she would demand

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

that you "choose" between her and your girlfriend is ridiculous.

Because you are serious about Kelli, rather than regard what your sister said as a policy statement from the rest of the family, ask them how they feel about your girlfriend. Some may like her; some may not. But you should not decide whom to marry based on anyone else's opinion other than your own. They don't have to live with her; only you do.

P.S. Mature adults do not allow anyone to abuse their spouses.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



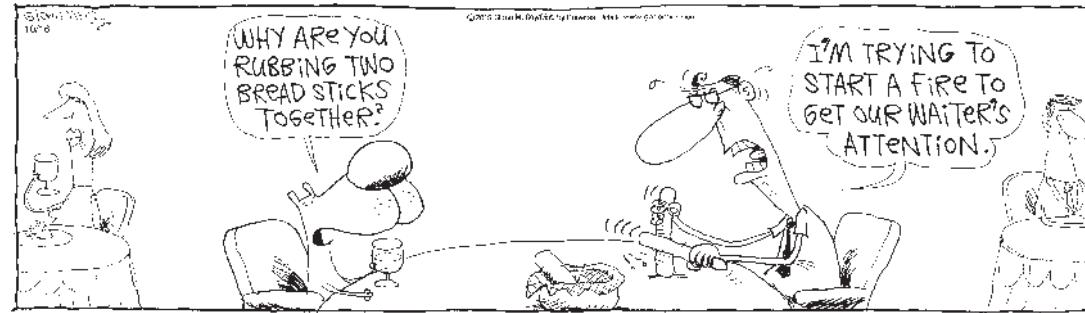
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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Blue Jays beat Rangers 6-3 to win wild Game 5



TORONTO

(AP)—Jose Bautista wiped out the need for protests or umpire reviews with the Toronto Blue Jays' biggest home run since Joe Carter's historic shot.

Toronto earned its first trip to the American League Championship Series since Carter's World Series-ending drive in 1993, overcoming one of the craziest plays in playoff history when Bautista hit a three-run homer after three Texas Rangers errors for a 6-3 victory Wednesday in the deciding Game 5 of the Division Series.

"It's the most emotionally charged game that I've ever played," Bautista said.

The Blue Jays became the third team to win a best-of-five series after losing the first two games at home. The 2001 Yankees also did it against Oakland, and the 2012 Giants did it against Cincinnati. Both of those teams went on to reach the World Series.

"The odds were against us but I don't think these guys ever thought we were out of it," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said.

Toronto, who led the majors in homers this season, will play the Royals, who beat Houston in Game 5 of their series, a rematch of the 1985 ALCS. Game 1 is Friday night in Kansas City.

"It doesn't really matter, we're just happy we're going to the next round," Blue Jays slugger Josh Donaldson said. "Whoever we play is a very,



very good opponent."

Bautista's homer capped an event-filled, 53-minute seventh inning that took a turn when Toronto catcher Russell Martin's seemingly routine throw back to the pitcher deflected off batter Shin-Soo Choo and allowed the tiebreaking to score.

"That was crazy," Blue Jays starter Marcus Stroman said. "With all that happened, we did a good job of keeping our emotions in check."

The Blue Jays filed a protest after an umpire review ruled Rougned Odor was allowed to

cross home plate. Toronto fans pelted the field with debris during the 18-minute delay.

The Rangers started the bottom half by making errors on three straight groundballs, and Toronto rallied. Benches cleared twice in the Blue Jays' half of the inning.

Roberto Osuna got the final five outs for his first postseason save.

Osuna turned toward the outfield after striking out Wil Venable, looked to the sky and was mobbed by his teammates as jubilant fans rocked the Rogers

Centre.

After Edwin Encarnacion tied it 2-all with a second-deck drive off tough-luck loser Cole Hamels in the sixth, Odor led off the seventh with a single and went to third on a sacrifice and groundout.

With Choo up, Martin's throw back to reliever Aaron Sanchez deflected off Choo and dribbled toward third base.

Home plate umpire Dale Scott initially ruled it a dead ball but, after Rangers manager Jeff Banister questioned the call, the umpires huddled and Odor was

sent home. Martin was given an error.

"I just caught the ball and threw it back very casually and it hit his bat and then next thing you know run scores," Martin said. "It's never happened in my life before. It's just one of those moments, and it created an opportunity for us to do something special."

Scott acknowledged making a mistake with his initial ruling.

"I was mixing up two rules," Scott said. "If there's no intent, if he's not out of the box, that throw is live."

Fans littered the field with objects during the delay as umpires sorted out a play that is certain to rank up there with Derek Jeter's Jeffrey Maier homer in 1996 or Reggie Jackson's hip block of a throw in the 1978 World Series as one of the craziest in the postseason.

"We went in the tunnel back there (behind the dugout) to get out of the way," Rangers pitcher Sam Dyson said of the barrage of bottles and other items.

According to rule Major League Baseball rule 6.03(a) (3), the batter is not to be charged with interfering with the catcher if the batter is still in the batter's box and doesn't make a movement to block or disrupt the throw.

This type of play is not subject to manager's review but Scott, the crew chief, after discussing the ruling with Blue Jays manager John Gibbons, called an umpire's review. After a delay of 2 minutes, 32 seconds, the play stood and fans continued to throw objects on the field.

The Blue Jays filed a protest.

No need for the paperwork, though.

The Rangers made three consecutive errors to start the bottom half, with Martin reaching on a fielding error by shortstop Elvis Andrus to start it off.

Kevin Pillar followed with a grounder to first, but Martin

AP
Toronto Blue Jays' Jose Bautista tosses his bat after hitting a three-run home run during the seventh inning in Game 5 of baseball's American League Division Series, Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015 in Toronto.

was safe at second on an errant throw by Mitch Moreland.

After Dalton Pompey pinch ran for Martin, Ryan Goins followed with a sacrifice bunt. Adrian Beltre fielded the ball and threw to third, but Andrus dropped the ball for his second error of the inning, loading the bases for Ben Revere.

"This is the toughest moment of my career so far," Andrus said. "I feel like I let down my team and my city."

Revere grounded into a fielder's choice, with Moreland throwing Pompey out at the plate.

After Sam Dyson relieved Hamels, Donaldson tied it at 3 with a flare just beyond the reach of Odor at second, but Revere was forced out.

Bautista followed with a towering drive into the second deck, glaring at Dyson as he stood at home plate to admire his go-ahead drive, enthusiastically flipping his bat away.

"He's been known to hit dramatic home runs and there ain't a better time," Gibbons said. "This is his first opportunity on a national stage and he rose to the occasion."

With some fans continuing to litter the field, Encarnacion turned to face the crowd and appealed for calm, lifting his bat and helmet over his head. Dyson took exception and walked over to confront Encarnacion, leading to both dugouts and both bullpens emptying.

"I told him Jose needs to calm that down, respect the game a little more," Dyson said.

During the scrum that was quickly dissolved, 20 Toronto police officers stood across the outfield, while others gathered along the foul lines. Police later took position on the roof of the Rangers' first base dugout before the bottom of the ninth.

Encarnacion and Chris Colabello both singled when play resumed, but the bat-around inning ended when Troy Tulowitzki fouled out. Dyson made contact with Tulowitzki as he walked off, leading benches to clear again, with Texas catcher Chris Gimenez shoving Tulowitzki.

Texas opened the scoring in the first when Delino DeShields scored on a fielder's choice by Prince Fielder. Choo homered off Marcus Stroman in the third to make it 2-0.

Choo's homer was the first for the Rangers since Odor connected off David Price in the seventh inning of Game 1.

Toronto cut the deficit in half in the third on Bautista's two-out double.

Cueto tosses gem as Royals beat Astros 7-2 in ALDS clincher

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Johnny Cueto knew the Kansas City Royals had waded much of their future on him, trading away a bevy of prospects in late July so that he could pitch in moments like this.

The decisive game of a playoff series, their season on the line.

He responded with a masterpiece on his biggest stage yet, eight dominant innings Wednesday night that allowed the resilient Royals to rally once more for a 7-2 victory over the Houston Astros that sent them back to the American League Championship Series.

"I woke up today on the right foot," Cueto said. "As soon as I woke up, I felt something magic, that this was Game 5 and I had to show up for everybody, for this team and the fans."

Cueto allowed two hits, a single by Evan Gattis followed by Luis Valbuena's second-inning homer, before retiring the final 19 batters he faced. He struck out eight without a walk in the kind of clutch performance the Royals expected when they got him from the Reds.

When Wade Davis breezed through the ninth, the Royals poured onto the field to celebrate.

"Johnny Cueto was unbelievable," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "He knew the magnitude of this game. I think we all did. And he came out from the first pitch and had everything going."

The defending AL champs will host the Toronto Blue Jays in Game 1 on Friday night. The teams have met once before in the ALCS with the Royals winning in seven games in 1985—they would go on to beat the St. Louis Cardinals for their only World Series triumph.

"They're a great team," Davis said. "It'll be a fun series to watch."

The Royals trailed the Astros 2-1 in the fifth when Alex Rios led another comeback with a go-ahead, two-run double. Eric Hosmer and Ben Zobrist also drove in runs, and Kendrys Morales capped the festive night with a three-run homer off Dallas Keuchel in the eighth to put it away.

Collin McHugh (1-1), who won the divisional series opener for Houston, allowed three runs in four-plus innings. His

bullpen fared little better just two days after it blew a four-run, eighth-inning lead to send the series back to Kauffman Stadium for Game 5.

"The good version of Johnny Cueto is really tough," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said. "Hats off to him. He pitched a great game. ... We didn't scratch much off him."

Nothing, actually, after the second inning. And even that came thanks in part to a rare series of lapses by the Royals defense that briefly quieted a charged Kansas City crowd.

With two outs in the second, Gattis sent a slow hopper down the line that third baseman Mike Moustakas fielded cleanly. But with plenty of time, his throw across the infield went wide, and first baseman Hosmer had the ball pop from his glove trying to make a swipe tag.

On the next pitch, Valbuena sent his two-run homer streaking into the Astros bullpen.

It wasn't until the fourth that Kansas City got a run back, on back-to-back singles by Cain and Hosmer. But by the fifth, the Royals had figured out McHugh's darting curveball.

Salvador Perez was hit by a pitch, and Alex Gordon hit a ground-rule double to right. Hinch brought in Mike Fiers in relief, and Rios sent a double bouncing down the chalk of the third-base line, scoring two runs and giving the Royals the lead.

Following a sacrifice bunt, Zobrist's lazy sacrifice fly made it 4-2.

That was plenty of support for Cueto, who was acquired from the Reds for a package of left-handed prospects just before the July 31 trade deadline precisely for moments like this.

Mixing quick-pitch fastballs with hesitation changeups, Cueto made the Astros look foolish most of the night. He jawed with Houston outfielder Carlos Gomez, strutted around like a Wild West gunfighter, and had the unmistakable swagger of an October ace.

After all, Cueto was finally proving that he was one.

"After the homer he settled in. He was able to use deception, quick-pitch, slow us down and disrupt our timing," Astros slugger George Springer said. "He's got electric stuff."

New deadline in Cassel house: He's starter for Cowboys now



IRVING, Texas (AP)—Matt Cassel's biggest concern when he was traded from Buffalo to Dallas was the timing of the birth of his fourth child.

Now there's a deadline with his wife just days away from delivering. Cassel will be the starting quarterback when the Cowboys visit the New York Giants on Oct. 25, after their bye.

"We will get it out before then," Cassel said with a smile as reporters broke out in laughter. "Right, honey? I love you. Lot of walking. Lot of walking."

Coach Jason Garrett made Cassel the starter Wednesday after Brandon Weeden lost all three of his starts in place of the injured Tony Romo.

Dallas is also promoting rookie guard La'el Collins, a projected first-round pick from LSU who wasn't selected because his name surfaced in the investigation of a woman's death days before the draft.

The defending NFC East champion Cowboys (2-3) were inconsistent on offense with Weeden and need at least one win, perhaps two, to stay in contention in the next four games without Romo. He's out at least that long with a broken left collarbone.

"We just felt like we wanted to give Matt an opportunity to be in this role and see if we can

get our offense going a little bit more and get our team going a little bit more," Garrett said.

In Cassel, Dallas is picking someone with more experience - and more wins. Cassel made 71 starts for New England, Kansas City and Minnesota and has 33 wins to just five for Weeden, although both have losing records for their careers.

The Dallas offense has posed little threat down the field with Weeden, and the running game has struggled with extra defenders closer to the line of scrimmage.

In their 30-6 loss to New England last Sunday, the Cowboys went without a touchdown for the first time since kicking six field goals in an 18-16 win over Washington in 2011. Romo played that game with cracked ribs.

"This position has an impact on the entire offensive unit maybe more than any other position and certainly has an impact on how the team is performing," Garrett said. "Sometimes that's fair. Sometimes that's unfair. That's the nature of this position."

Cassel grew up a fan of the Cowboys because his late father was from Lubbock in West Texas. He followed them when Dallas won three Super Bowls in four years with an offense powered by Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin.

Now he's trying to find a way to win with an offense missing

Romo and star receiver Dez Bryant after the Cowboys let NFL rushing champion DeMarco Murray go to Philadelphia in free agency.

"The guys in this room can win ballgames," Cassel said. "There's no doubt about it."

Cassel led New England to an 11-5 record after Tom Brady's season-ending knee injury in 2008. Cassel made his 92nd appearance next week in his 11th season.

Patriots missed the playoffs. He was traded to Kansas City and started for the Chiefs before going to Minnesota and Buffalo.

With the Cowboys looking for another veteran backup following Romo's injury, the Bills traded Cassel after Tyrod Taylor won the starting job in training camp. The 33-year-old will make his 92nd appearance next week in his 11th season.

"I know how hard it is to get on the field in this league," Cassel said. "At the same time, it's always been a dream of mine to play for the Cowboys, let alone to be a starter for the Cowboys."

Collins will replace Ron Leary at left guard and make his second career start against the Giants. He started in Week 3 against Atlanta while Leary was out with a groin injury. Collins

was inactive for the opener and the past two games because he didn't have the position flexibility needed for a backup.

The Cowboys signed Collins as an undrafted free agent a few days after the draft. He picked Dallas over Miami.

"Definitely the start of showing I'm becoming the player I want to be," Collins said. "Just taking that approach every day."

Bills' Ryan won't rule out QB Taylor despite sprained knee

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Quarterback Tyrod Taylor believes he can play on a sprained left knee, and coach Rex Ryan is going to keep everyone guessing—particularly the Cincinnati Bengals—on who will start for the Buffalo Bills on Sunday.

Ryan refused to rule out Taylor from playing, and particularly disputed speculation the quarterback could miss up to three weeks after tests revealed he sprained his medial collateral ligament.

"I know it's been widely reported that Tyrod is not playing. That's news to me," Ryan said Wednesday. "That may or may not be the case. But it's certainly not official. So we'll see how it goes."

At practice, backup EJ Manuel took a majority of snaps with the starting offense as

Buffalo (3-2) prepares to host Cincinnati (5-0).

Taylor wore a brace on his knee while practicing on a limited basis three days after being hurt in a 14-13 win over Tennessee.

Though he had no difficulty jogging in a straight line, Taylor was hampered when moving laterally during the 20-minute portion of practice open to reporters.

"I don't see it as a big deal," Taylor said, referring to moving sideways. "To me, it feels better than it did yesterday whether it's moving straight ahead of moving laterally as well."

When it comes to possibility of playing against the Bengals, Taylor said "that's the plan," and added, "I'm comfortable with me going out there and playing the way I'm feeling

right now."

He said he had no issues planting his feet while attempting passes, and didn't rule out the possibility of wearing a brace.

Taylor cautioned the decision on whether he plays will involve the coaching and medical staff.

The question is whether the Bills would risk Taylor to further injury because his dual-threat ability as a passer and runner exposes him to being hit.

That's how Taylor was hurt in rallying Buffalo to score two touchdowns in the final 16½ minutes against Tennessee. He missed one play after his left leg bent awkwardly after being pulled down by the back of his jersey by linebacker Zach Brown following a 24-yard scramble midway through the fourth quarter. Brown was penalized 15 yards for a horse-collar tackle.

Taylor returned and capped the victory with a 2-yard touchdown pass to Chris Hogan. Taylor also scored on a 22-yard scamper, and finished with a team-best 76 yards rushing—the most by a quarterback in team history.

The Bills' offense is already banged up.

Starting running back LeSean McCoy (left hamstring) practised on a limited basis for just the first time in two weeks. Backup running back Karlos Williams is still being monitored for a concussion. At least, receiver Sammy Watkins is set to return after missing two games with a right calf injury.

On defense, starting safety Aaron Williams will miss at least eight weeks with a neck injury after being placed on the reserve-injured designated to return list.

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PaddleFest practice awaits weather conditions

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Race organizers of the Marianas PaddleFest Series are hoping for better weather on Sunday so the third practice session at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's beachside won't be postponed.

Dino Manning, one of the organizers of the second stand up paddling event, said the third practice session would most likely be cancelled.

"This Sunday will most likely be cancelled due to the weather forecast [of rain and wind] but we are keeping our fingers crossed so that we can proceed with the practice," said Manning.

Manning added that last Oct. 11 there was a slight decrease of paddlers—youth and adults—who have been practicing since the first day on Oct. 4.

"We had about 12 to 15 paddlers last Sunday (Oct. 11). There was a decrease in youth paddlers, which I think may be due to the windy conditions we had. The previous Sunday



JON PEREZ
Instructors of the Marianas PaddleFest Series help the kids get their balance while on top of the paddle board during last Sunday's practice session at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's beachside.

we had a higher turnout mainly due to the number of youth paddlers," said Manning.

After Oct. 18, two more practice sessions will be held on Oct. 25 and Nov. 1 before the actual race on Nov. 7 also at the Hyatt

beachside. The practice sessions will be every 2pm to 4pm.

The race was originally set in the last weekend of August but was cancelled due to Typhoon Soudelor.

The race will be divided into

the men's, women's, and youth triangle courses, and the mixed three-person relay. The youth division will have Under-12, U14, and U16 age groups while the open 17-over, and masters

50-over are for the adults.

All events include a running beach finish of approximately 40 to 50 meters while one member of the mixed team relay must either be a female

Teammates remember Lamar Odom's productive, selfless career



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Although Lamar Odom's marriage to Khloe Kardashian introduced him to untold millions of fans who don't know a power forward from a paparazzo, reality television notoriety was only a small part of a life largely spent in basketball.

Odom won two NBA championships with the Los Angeles Lakers and an award as the league's top reserve during his 14-year pro career, adding to a trophy case that also includes an Olympic medal and a FIBA world championship medal.

Odom was a can't-miss prospect from the start of his playing days in Queens, a skilled ball-handler in a rangy big man's body. His versatility got him through a truncated college career into the NBA, where he played for four franchises and became known as an invaluable teammate who repeatedly sacrificed personal statistics for team success.

"All he cared about was playing basketball," said Knicks star Carmelo Anthony, a longtime friend. "He wanted

to give back to the league. Every time I talked to him, that's all he talked about."

Odom's teammates and friends throughout the sport paid tribute after he was found unconscious in a Nevada brothel and rushed to a hospital this week. Several basketball figures visited Odom's bedside, including Kobe Bryant and Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak.

"Lamar Odom is one of the greatest people I've ever known," said New York Knicks coach Derek Fisher, Odom's longtime teammate with the Lakers. "I don't view him through the prism of choices that he's made. I view him through the heart and soul of the person that he really is."

Odom's basketball gifts were multifold from the start. He sprouted to his full 6-foot-10 height during his prep career at Christ The King Regional High School in Queens, yet never lost the ball-handling and passing abilities of a smaller player.

Anthony, another New York native and top-flight prospect born three years

later, looked up to Odom's multifaceted game.

"L.O. was a point forward," Anthony said. "A lot of people will tell you he was one of my favorite players coming out of high school, one of the best high school players I've seen as a kid."

A hotly recruited prospect, Odom spent one year at UNLV without playing amid NCAA investigations. He transferred to the University of Rhode Island, where he won a conference title in his single season under coach Jim Harrick before entering the NBA draft.

Odom was the fourth pick in the 1999 draft by the moribund Los Angeles Clippers, who evolved into a solid team during his four years. He was chosen for the 2004 U.S. Olympic basketball team in Athens, winning a bronze medal.

After one season with the Miami Heat, Odom was traded to the Lakers in 2004 in a deal for Shaquille O'Neal. When the famed club hired coach Phil Jackson a year later, Odom became a key component of the Lakers' rise back to glory.

give the kids time to rest since they still have school," added Rogolifoi.

Players who would join the league would also get a chance to be selected as members of the CNMI U21 All-Star team that would compete in the Baseball Confederation of Oceania regional tournament. The age limit for BCO's U21 tournament is from 17 to 21.

Triple A youth league was originally scheduled in August but was moved to October after Typhoon Soudelor damaged the Tan Ko Baseball

Field and other sports facilities on the island.

The Tan Ko field—which recently hosted the Little League Asia-Pacific-Middle East Regional Baseball Tournament in the Junior, Senior, and Big League divisions—suffered heavy damage as some of its lights were either not aligned or missing, while the surrounding fence and other areas of the facility, including the batting cages, needs to be fixed.

For more information, call Rogolifoi at 2346672 or email at tonyrogolifoi@yahoo.com.

MP

From Page 28

first for Tan Holdings in the seventh minute. A Taka Borja shot in the 16th minute allowed Tan Holdings to equalize, but Kanoa answered with two straight goals and regained the lead at halftime with Ian Maniago and Jose finding the back of the net in the 21st and 23rd minute, respectively.

Kanoa pulled away in the second half, tacking on five more goals against only one from Tan Holdings. John Anastacio made it a 5-2 lead off his goal in the 34th minute, while Merrick Toves dropped back-to-back (41st and 46th) to widen the gap before Tan Holdings ended its silence in the second half, thanks to Goto's goal in the 52nd. Kanoa closed out the match with two more goals in a span of three minutes with Maniago nailing his second in the 56th minute and Brian Lubao

scoring in the 59th.

Meanwhile, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will announce today or early Saturday whether matches this weekend will be played as scheduled.

"NMIFA is monitoring the weather situation and will determine the effect of the conditions that will prevail tomorrow, Friday, when Tropical Storm Champi is at its closest point to Saipan. Depending on the severity of the conditions, I will try to make an announcement late Friday night or early Saturday morning if any of the youth league schedules will be cancelled. For example, morning matches may be cancelled but the afternoon games may still be played. Our fall season is a short one so the Youth Committee would like to avoid any cancellation," NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta said in an email sent to all participating clubs.

Ten matches are scheduled in

PACMAN

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Tabora paced Pacman with his 23 markers, while Rocyl Ritual and Lizama chipped in 18 and 12, respectively.

Jack Aranda matched Tabora's output, while Darwin Barbo and Mike Espinosa contributed 14 apiece with the latter putting PIC on top for the last time with his undergoal stab before Lerio stole the thunder from the Marianas High School standout.

Pacman pulled off the close victory after coming back from a 6-point deficit at the beginning of the fourth quarter, 60-66. Ritual and Tabora teamed up in the fight-back before Lerio made the most important basket in the game. Ritual drilled 7 of Pacman's first 8 markers in the final canto, while Tabora tallied 8, including 5 straight in the

closing minutes.

PIC lost the upper hand in the fourth, as only Ham Hambros hit more than two field goals in the payoff frame. Aranda was held to two baskets, while Barbo and Espinosa were limited to one apiece.

Meanwhile, GMI/IKKI topped the Sonics, 79-72, in their U18 game last Wednesday.

GMI/IKKI now has a 2-0 record to share the lead with Ferreira Builders, while the Sonics dropped to a 0-2 card.

Ignacio Borja top-scored for GMI/IKKI, registering 17 points. He drew enough support from his teammates with Jethro Cruz adding 16 and Djay Ong and Antonio Santos logging 11 and 10, respectively.

Mark Mintac had 21 for the Sonics.

In the other game last Wednesday, Ask Y U B won via default against Maplas. Ask

or a U14 racer. All race events will take place inside the lagoon where spectators can watch all the action.

The Hyatt Regency Saipan, Windsurfing Saipan, and The OceanSoul Society joined hands in organizing the event. Triple J Enterprises, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and KKMP RADIO 92.1 are the event partners.

Registration fees are \$10 for youth (8 to 16 years old) and \$20 for adults (17 and over). Deadline for registration is on Nov. 4.

For more information and registration visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/marianas-paddlefest-race-2-registration-18710063303> or register at Windsurfing Saipan located at Hyatt's north side at the beachfront or email oceansoulunlimited@gmail.com or windsrn@me.com. Updates will also be posted on the OceanSoul Society Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/OceansoulUnlimited>.

Week 2 of the youth fall league.

In the boys U18 division, Paire and Matansa are set to play at 2:30pm at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, while in the second game at 4:15pm, MP United will duel Tan Holdings. Over at the Hopwood pitches, Kanoa will collide against Paire, while MP United will meet Tan Holdings in the other co-ed U12 pairing.

Also scheduled at Hopwood are the three matches in the girls U15 division and one in the boys U15. In the girls U15, Matansa will face Shirley's at 2:30pm at Pitch 2, while Pitch 2 will host the MP United-Tan Holdings tiff at the same time, and Kanoa will play Paire at 4pm at Pitch 1. The lone boys U15 match at Hopwood at 10am will be between Shirley's and Paire. The two other boys U15 game will be played at the Oleai pitch with Matansa battling Tan Holdings-1 at 8am and Tan Holdings-1 challenging MP United at 10am.

Y U B improved to a 2-0 mark to join MJD on top of the team standings in the East Group, while Maplas fell to a 0-2 slate.

Open

Pacman 84 – Tabora 23, Ritual 18, Lizama 12, Lerio 11, Hernandez 6, Laguindam 5, Capalad 5, Rangamar 4.

PIC 83 – Aranda 23, Barbo 14, Espinosa 14, Hambros 12, Rabasto 9, Feria 7, Calloway 4.

Scoring by quarters: 20-15, 34-36, 60-66, 84-83.

U18

GMI Market 79 – Borja 17, Cruz 16, Ong 11, Santos 10, Rios 6, Sablan 6, Alipio 6, Kin-taro 4, Atalig 3.

Sonics 72 – Mintac 21, Romeo 14, Salalila 8, Diyco 6, Bautista 6, Dionisio 4, Muna 4, Espinosa 4, Ignobay 1.

Scoring by quarters: 18-16, 40-35, 56-48, 79-72.

Blue Haus semis matches still a go

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The pair of semis games in the 2015 Blue Haus IT&E Inter-Color Basketball League will push through as scheduled this weekend, weather permitting.

League coordinator Elmer Esdrelon said that since Tropical Storm Champi is expected to hit Saipan this afternoon, they are hoping weather conditions will improve this Saturday and Sunday so they could hold the Final Four matches.

In the first semis tiff this Saturday, top-ranked Makalaro Lang is set to face the second-seeded Mamba, while the fourth-ranked Red Rice is slated to duel the sixth-seeded Pasion De Amor for the battle for the

second finals ticket this Sunday. Both matches will begin at 5pm.

Makalaro Lang gained the top seeding and the automatic semis berth that went with it after finishing the round-robin elimination with a 6-2 record. Mamba, Red Rice, and Pasion De Amor tied Hard Kulangot and Oh My J for the second to sixth place in the team standings with the former winning the tie-break and taking the No. 2 seed.

The five tied squads held identical 5-3 marks and had to face and beat their first round playoff foes to join Makalaro Lang in the semis.

Mamba was the second squad to make it to the Final Four following an 88-70 demolition of last playoff qualifier Purple Rain, while Pasion De Amor and Red Rice followed suit after downing Hard Kulangot, 90-75, and Oh My J, 84-77, respectively.

ly, last weekend.

After the completion of the semis cast, the Final Four pairing was determined via draw with Makalaro Lang picking No. 1 getting paired against Mamba. The Ivan Devero-led Makalaro Lang is highly favored against the Brendon Talania-anchored Mamba owing to its 98-69 win in their lone meeting in the elimination round.

Ivan Devero top-scored in Makalaro Lang's rout of Mamba, firing 32 markers, while John Jugos, Errol Peredo, and Raymond Velasco also made double figures, combining for 49 more points. Completing Makalaro Lang's crew are Ernie Moises, Greg De Leon, Rico Morales, Ray Culala, and Mat Buenabajo.

Ivan Devero will be going up against his brothers Chris-

tian and John Michael, who will team up with Talania, J.R. Mina, Stephen Tolosa, Joseph Woodson, Ariel Abadilla, Jun Domingo, Teddy Orbeta, and Adonis Macoto.

In the other semis pairing, Pasion De Amor has the slight psychological advantage against Red Rice after escaping with a 90-89 win in their head-to-head duel in the elimination.

Pasion De Amor nosed out Red Rice off Elmer Esdrelon's running jumper in the closing seconds. Esdrelon will lead Pasion De Amor's finals bid and will be supported by Bart Demapan, Rey Pestillo, Cris and Nestor Arreza, Noel Conti, Jun Carag, and Jeroshi Bautista.

Red Rice on the other hand, will lean on the trio of Darwin Barbo, Angelo Fernando, and Michael Cabanas. Joining the three on Red Rice's roster are Danray Chan, Joseph Achas, Joel Saplan, Jun Marilla, and Armand Anasan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mamba's Adonis Macoto pulls up for a jumper against Purple Rain's Donnel Isip during their playoff game in the Blue Haus IT&E caging last weekend at the Navy Hill court.



'Champi' pushes back cross-country race

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics pushed back the schedule of its four-leg All Schools Cross Country race due to Tropical Storm Champi, which is set to hit the CNMI this weekend.

"With the anticipated arrival of Tropical Storm Champi this weekend, the [NMA] would like to inform all schools participating in this weekend's cross country meet that the event will be postponed and moved the following weekend," said NMA official Elias Rangamar.

The first leg of the annual race is set for tomorrow but is now rescheduled to next Saturday, Oct. 24 at 4pm. All the four races will also be at the Commonwealth Ports Authority Airport Field.

The second leg will be on Oct. 31 at 7am, while the Nov. 7 and 14 races will



both be at 4pm.

The annual racing event will have six age groups, in boys and girls divisions—Under-7, U9, U11, U13, U15, and U18. NMA has modified the age groups to be in line with the new grade level used by the Public School System.

Registration for the event is free but students still need to sign up to be allowed to participate and must present a waiver upon joining. Each participating school can enter as many students in each age group.

Elementary students will run 1 mile (1.6 kilometers), middle schoolers 2.1 miles (3.3K) and high school level participants 3.2 miles (5.1K).

Last year long distance runner Seiya Eda and multi-sport athlete Gabrielle Race ruled their respective divisions in the U18 class, while Agape Christian School and Saipan Community School each clinched four team trophies.

The NMA is also going to hold two more racing events before the year ends, the Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot in November and the Christmas Island Relay in December.



Students who will join the 2015 All Schools Cross Country race series will have to wait for one more week after Northern Marianas Athletics pushed back the first leg of the annual racing event.

JON PEREZ

Atalig, Dela Cruz rule darts, billiards tournaments

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Darrol "Ojisan" Atalig and Rodel Dela Cruz turned back their respective opponents to rule the weekly darts and billiards tournaments held last Wednesday at Jonny's Bar & Grill in Garapan.

Pacific Amusement Inc. is organizing both events in cooperation with Marpac, Bud Light, and Budweiser.

Atalig took home a trophy and \$50 cash after beating Jun "Shocker" Santos in their winner-take-all finale. Santos settled for the runner-up prizes of \$40 cash and a T-shirt.

It was also Atalig's second win over Santos after relegating him to the loser's bracket with a second-round win in the eliminations. He also defeated Leo Wania and Ray "Udas" Cepeda on his way to the finals.

Santos scored wins over Boom "Bang" Cruz, K.J. Villagomez, Patrick "Tako" Taitano, and Cepeda in the loser's bracket but could not dispatch Santos in their championship showdown.

Jeff "Joker" Barit and Paul Quizon were the other darts players who joined but were eliminated earlier in the tournament.

Dela Cruz also went undefeated to clinch the weekly billiards title besting Ray Matsunaga in the finals. He won \$60 cash and a Pacific Islands Club

waterpark pass for two, while his finals foe got \$40 and a T-shirt.

Dela Cruz scored wins over Boyet Sequioco, Warlee Ellama, and Matsunaga to clinch the first finals berth while his opponent in the title match dispatched Nolan Cultura



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Darrol "Ojisan" Atalig, left, is all smiles after beating Jun "Shocker" Santos in the finals of the weekly darts tournament last Wednesday at the Jonny's Bar & Grill in Garapan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rodel Dela Cruz, left, and Ray Matsunaga pose after their finals match in the weekly billiards tournament last Wednesday at the Jonny's Bar & Grill in Garapan.



Blue Jays beat
Rangers 6-3
to win wild
Game 5
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MP United, Kanoa win in U12 opener



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club and Kanoa FC prevailed in the opening matches in the co-ed U12 division of the 2015 NMIFA Youth Fall League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

MP United played at Pitch 1 against Paire FC and eked out a 4-3 victory, while over at Pitch 2, Kanoa dominated Tan Holdings FC, 9-3.

Rintaro Miyawaki registered two goals for MP United, which managed to earn the win against Paire despite failing to hit the board in the first half. Reginald Pascual and Dylan Cho chipped in one goal apiece in MP United's victory in the season opening week.

Paire's three goals all came from Kaden Church, who lit up the board first with his conversion in the 29th minute to give his team a shaky 1-0 lead at halftime.

Miyawaki tied the match in the 34th minute with his first goal in the game and MP United went on to take the upper hand a minute later off Pascual's shot. However, MP United's stay on top was short-lived as Church got his second goal in the 36th minute to force the second deadlock.

Participants in the MP United FC Summer Football Camp pose for a photo at the Navy Hill Field. Some graduates of the program are now playing for MP United's co-ed U12 team, which won its opening game in the 2015 NMIFA Youth Fall League last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The back-and-forth match continued with Miyawaki also nailing his second goal in the 39th minute to put MP United on top anew, 3-2, while Pascual's goal in the 50th gave the team cushion. Church's third goal a minute late trimmed MP United's advantage to one, but that was it for Paire.



Northern Mariana Islands Football Association In the other U12 pairing, Kanoa cruised to victory behind the hat-trick of Jaydee Jose.

José started the lopsided match with back-to-back goals in the 10th and 13th minute. His first goal tied the match and came after Kohtaro Goto scored

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Wait-and-see mode for Triple A baseball meet

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan Baseball League coordinator Tony Rogolifo said that they would wait for the weather conditions tomorrow if the opening of the 2015 Division

of Youth Services Summer/Fall Season Triple A Youth Baseball Under-18 League would push through or not.

The Triple A Youth Baseball League, funded by the Division of Youth Services under the Department

of Community and Cultural Affairs, was scheduled to open tomorrow at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

"We wanted to start the league as much as possible but it all depends if the weather would clear up or not. If not, we have no choice but to push it back to a tentative date," said Rogolifo, who is also the executive director of the Northern Marianas Sports Association.

League organizers limited the number of competing teams in the inaugural Under-18 tournament to six. Managers and coaches are also encouraged to recruit underprivileged kids to join their team.

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JON PEREZ
Night games, like in the Big League division of last season's Saipan Little League, won't be held in the 2015 Division of Youth Services Summer/Fall Season Triple A Youth Baseball Under-18 League since the lights at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios ballfield needs to be fixed.

Pacman noses out PIC, 84-83

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Pacman recovered from its debut loss in the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League after nipping Pacific Islands Club, 84-83, last Tuesday at the San Antonio court.

Sonny Lorio made a layup in the closing seconds to hand the victory to Pacman, which incidentally also dropped its opener against GMI/IKKI by only a point, 70-71, early this month.

Pacman avoided another heart-breaker when Lorio dribbled toward their frontcourt after PIC lost the leather on the other end and eluded three defenders chasing him off his spin move from the right wing. PIC had the chance for the last shot, but the ball was stolen by Pete Lizama and time expired, according to league officials.

Lorio's go-ahead layup was his lone basket in the fourth quarter and it allowed him to finish in double figures with 11 points. Jun

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pacman's Henry Sablan is double-teamed by GMI/IKKI's Joshua Melenendez, left, and Juan Camacho during the second quarter of their opening game in the San Antonio caging this month at the San Antonio court. Pacman lost, 70-71, but recovered quickly with an 84-83 victory against Pacific Islands Club last Tuesday.